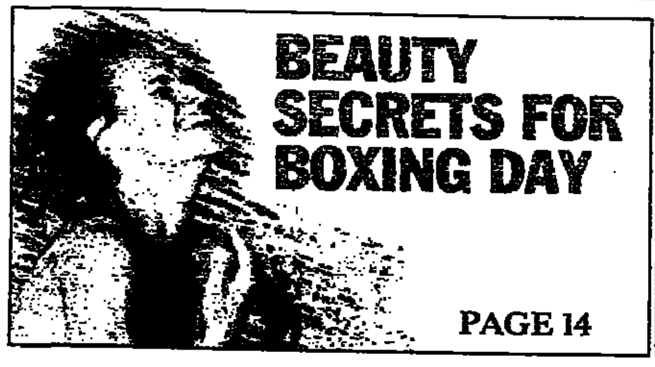
THE TIMES

35p

No. 66,082

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26 1997

http://www.the-times.co.uk



BEAUTY SECRETS FOR BOXING DAY

PAGE 14

HOW TO KEEP ON PARTYING

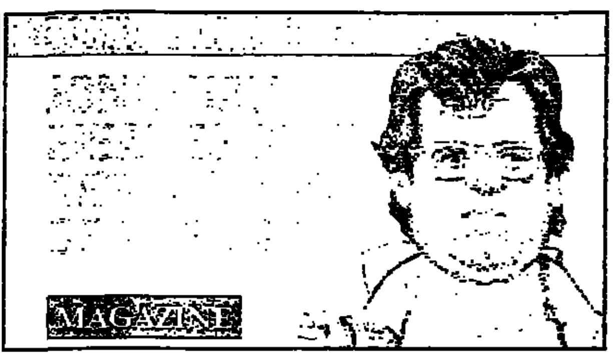
Ask an expert

PAGE 15

YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST BARGAINS

Today and tomorrow

PAGE 9



Power cut for thousands of families

Ten are killed as hurricanes sweep Britain

By Russell Jenkins and Bill Hoffmann

HURRICANE force winds raged across Britain on Christmas Eve and yesterday leaving five people dead, five French fishermen feared drowned in the Irish Sea, thousands of people without power and scores of roads blocked by fallen trees and masonry.

As the emergency services battled to cope, a fresh wave of storms with winds gusting up to 70 mph swept across London and much of southern England last night.

Rescuers sought in vain for a French trawler believed to have sunk 35 miles off the coast of West Wales.

For 70,000 homes there was no power on Christmas Day. Electricity companies drafted in an army of workers who struggled in continuing bad weather to restore power.

Weathermen said the storms were the worst to hit the British Isles since December, 1993. The abnormally high winds had been building up over the Atlantic in a series of depressions for a week. Hurricane-force winds of 111 mph were registered at Aberdaron, on the Lleyn Peninsular, North Wales and 101 mph at the Valentia Observatory in County Kerry.

The full force was unleashed on Northern Ireland, the North West and North Wales, where emergency services were inundated with 999 calls. The West Country, Lancashire, Cumbria, Yorkshire and the Midlands were also badly affected.

Lancashire, especially Blackpool and Lytham St Anne's, Cheshire, North Wales, and Cumbria suffered most from the power failures. Winds of 90 mph toppled a section of Blackpool's north pier and about 100 yards of jetty was washed away. In the East Midlands thousands were blacked out and helicopters were used to survey the damage. Extra staff were brought from Scotland.

In Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, 30 families were evacuated when a boiler house chimney which tilted ten degrees threatened to fall on their homes.

Five deaths were blamed directly on the weather.

A 32-year-old woman, from Stoke-on-Trent, was killed in Bromborough, on the Wirral, when a tree crushed the car she was driving. And a woman driving a Nissan died and her passenger was injured in an collision with another car in the Penny Lane area of Liverpool. In Caernafon a 25-year-old man was killed in a motorcyle crash.

Paul Griffiths, 26, from Bridgend, Glamorgan, was killed when he was blown into the paths of two oncoming cars.

A 19-year-old man, who died in Waterville, County Kerry, Ireland, was trapped under rubble when the wall of a disused dance hall was blown down. His brother escaped with only slight injuries.

Firemen and tree surgeons freed a couple from a car after an accident at Bexleyheath, in south-east London.

On the Wirral Peninsula, Merseyside, the local council declared an emergency after falling trees caused two serious accidents and closed a number of roads.

On the M53 an ambulance carrying a kidney to hospital for a transplant was involved in a 10-vehicle pile-up in which four people were hurt when a tree fell on to the carriageway.

Inspector Colin Davidson, of Merseyside Police, said the situation at the height of the gale was "like the wild west".

At sea the search for the missing French tralwer began on Christmas Eve after an emergency beacon was picked up from the 50-foot Brittany-based vessel, *Toul an Trez*, which had a crew of five. Swansea coastguards said the ship had been capsized by huge waves created by 65mph winds.

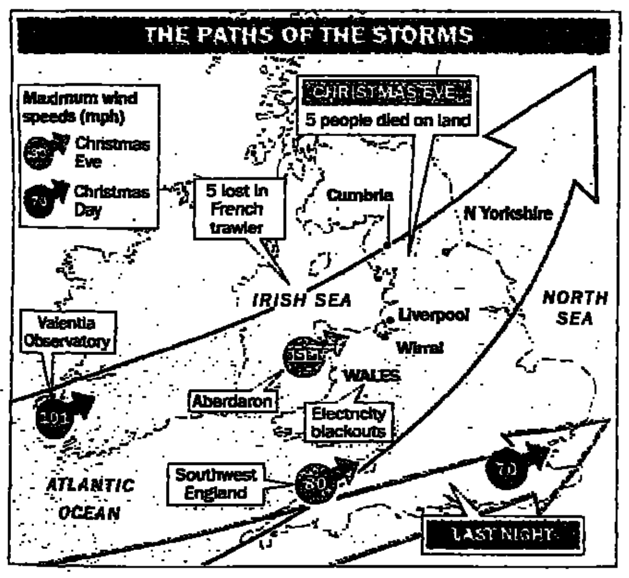
Wreckage believed to be from the vessel was found near where the emergency beacon was found.

Five helicopters, two RAF Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft and British and French fishing vessels were engaged in the search yesterday afternoon. Two of the helicopters carried heat-seeking equipment.

In Northern Ireland the gales swept in from the west

Continued on page 3, col 1

THE PATHS OF THE STORMS



LYNNE SLADKY

Prince Harry and Prince William were given presents by well-wishers after attending Christmas morning service on the Sandringham estate

Diana recalled in prayers and on TV

By Emma Wilkins and Alan Hamilton

PRINCE William and Prince Harry showed maturity beyond their years yesterday as they coped with their first Christmas since the death of their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales.

They smiled and chatted to elderly and disabled people in the crowds outside St Mary Magdalene church on the Sandringham estate after attending the traditional Christmas Day service with other members of the Royal Family.

Prince William, 15 and Prince Harry, 13, spent several minutes talking to some of the 2,000 people outside the church. The crowd was larger than usual but the atmosphere was more subdued and there were no shouts of "Happy Christmas".

The Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family listened as prayers were said for the Princess. Canon George Hall, rector of the Sandringham group of parishes, said: "We thank God for those whom we love but see no more, Diana Princess of Wales, and all loved ones who have departed this life." Later he mentioned "all those who are experiencing sadness this Christmas".

After the service the Queen joined the Queen Mother who was chatting with the crowd and picked up her mother's walking stick when she dropped it.

In her Christmas broadcast, the highs and lows of joy and sadness were brought together by the Queen when she contrasted her sorrow at the death of Princess Diana with her pleasure at her own golden wedding celebrations.

In the ten-minute recorded address the Queen acknowledged the nation's grief at the death of her former daughter-in-law, although she stopped short of delivering any personal tribute of her own.

But the traditional programme, made for the first time by ITN and in a more flexible and documentary format than usual, included film of the Princess's funeral, and of the mountains of floral tributes whose sheer size astonished the world.

The Queen used the twin themes of Westminster Abbey and the poet William Blake to interweave the pains and pleasures of another turbulent year for the monarchy. The Abbey, she said, had provided the setting for two events this year, "one of them almost unbearably sad and one, for Prince Philip and me, tremendously happy".

Joy and sadness were part of all our lives, the Queen said, reaching for a volume of Blake to quote: "Joy and woe are woven fine, a clothing for the soul divine".

On the day before Diana's funeral in September, the Queen returned from Balmoral and went straight on television with a live tribute to the life and work of the Princess, which was widely regarded as a highly successful, if belated, stroke of public relations. Consideration was given to another live appearance yesterday, but it was decided that a recorded programme would be more suitable for distribution to other Commonwealth countries with widely differing time zones.

Speaking between film clips of herself, the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry inspecting the floral tributes to Diana at Buckingham and Kensington Palaces, the Queen said: "We all felt the shock and sorrow of Diana's death. Thousands upon thousands of you expressed your grief most poignantly in the wonderful flowers and messages left in tribute to her. That was a great comfort to all those close to her."

Duty to Diana done, the Queen moved swiftly to the rest of her royal year, dwelling at length on the golden wedding and reviewing her year's work and travel. She said she and Prince Philip had been delighted to visit Pakistan and India; there was no hint that the mission, through no fault of her own, disintegrated into a diplomatic shambles.

Queen's broadcast, page 2

TV & RADIO 38, 39
WEATHER 20
CROSSWORDS 20, 40
LETTERS 17
OBITUARIES 19
MATTHEW PARRIS 16
ARTS 31-33
CHESS & BRIDGE 28
COURT & SOCIAL 18
BUSINESS 37,38,40
EDUCATION 34
LAW REPORT 30

Kaunda arrested

Kenneth Kaunda, the 73-year-old former President of Zambia, was arrested at his home in Lusaka early yesterday and imprisoned under the country's state of emergency laws........ Page 11

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 50; Belgium B Frs 100; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pts 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 30.50; France F 16.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 650; Netherlands Fl 5.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 80; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 30.00; Norway Kr 25.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 25.00; Switzerland S Frs 5.00; Tunisia Din 5.200; USA $3.50.

52
9 770140 046350

Britain to help bail out Korea

By Jason Nisse

BRITAIN is to contribute $400 million (£240 million) to bail out South Korea, it was agreed on Christmas Eve in the face of the imminent collapse of the Asian economy.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, met with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to agree the funding, which is part of a $10 billion "swift aid" package agreed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The aid follows a $3 billion emergency loan by the World Bank, on Tuesday.

South Korea needed the money because Kim Dae-Jung, president-elect, said he feared the country would not be able to pay $15 billion of debts due soon to Western commercial banks. In exchange Mr Kim agreed to fundamental reforms of the economy which will allow Western firms to compete on an equal footing.

America is the largest contributor, paying $1.7 billion. Richard Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, said he was confident the move would stabilise the South Korean economy and that the money would be repaid.

Korean rescue, page 40
Leading article, page 17

Blair supports minister over son in drugs case

By Nicholas Watt and Richard Ford

TONY BLAIR has thrown his full authority behind the senior Cabinet minister whose son was arrested by police over allegations of supplying cannabis.

As the minister spent Christmas at home with his teenage son, Mr Blair's spokesman said: "Not for one second does the question of the Prime Minister having anything less than total confidence in the minister arise. The question of the minister resigning does not even arise."

The Prime Minister and his senior Cabinet colleague spoke by telephone on Monday — the day that the teenager made a statement to police. The minister accompanied his son, 17, to a police station after he was contacted by *The Mirror* with evidence that the teenager had allegedly been supplying drugs. A journalist befriended the teenager and, the paper reported, bought cannabis from him.

Dame Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, was told on Tuesday of the arrest and the papers are expected to be sent to the Crown Prosection Service early next month.

The Prime Minister's support for the minister, who cannot be named to protect the identity of his son, underlines Mr Blair's determination to draw a line under an episode which has gravely embarrassed the Government.

It has made the drive against juvenile crime a key plank of its law and order policy and it has maintained a hard line against drugs. The Crime and Disorder Bill, now going through Parliament, followed a White Paper entitled *No More Excuses*.

It contains a new drug treatment and testing order for offenders aged 16 and over and measures aimed at making parents more responsible for providing their children with proper care and control.

Despite the resolute response from Downing Street, the Prime Minister will face pressure to move the minister to another Cabinet post in his first ministerial reshuffle.

Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West and an advocate of the decriminalisation of cannabis for medicinal use, said: "If the boy gets away with it without a jail sentence it could be said that the fact that his father is a Government minister could have been a factor — even if it was not."

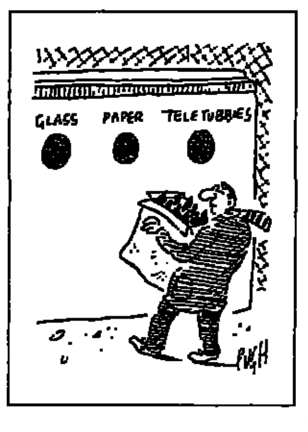
The allegations may also reignite the debate within the Labour Party over the decriminalisation of soft drugs. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, infuriated the Labour leadership in 1995 when she said that legalisation could be examined as a way of tackling drug abuse.

Next month the Home Office is to publish new research showing that as many as one in 20 people believes he or she has been the victim of drug-related crime in the past two years.

Mr Flynn said he hoped the episode would lead to a change in policy. "This proves that drug-pushers are not the low-life the Government pretends they are. This boy was from a respectable middle-class home. It is a hard lesson for the Government to take."

Conservatives made clear that for the moment they do not want to make political capital out of the minister's embarrassment. Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "Using drugs is dangerous and the Government is finding out that this remains true whatever the home background."

'Pros and cons', page 4



£3 billion of bargains

RECORD takings in the shops on Christmas Eve point to another bonanza as sales get into full swing today, retail analysts believe.

Do-it-yourself centres, discount furniture stores and white goods suppliers will be open today with millions of pounds worth of unsold stock offered at reduced prices.

Analysts believe that retailers may have as much as £3 billion worth of stock to dispose of.

The clothing sector has been particularly hard hit by the unseasonal mildness. Big reductions are predicted.

Barclays dismissed talk of a high street spending slump as it said spending on its Barclaycard jumped by 7 per cent in the last weekend before Christmas........ Page 9

NO HO HO?

The Samaritans
0345 90 90 90

Queen speaks of sadness over the death of Princess

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

THE Queen showed her determination to modernise and soften the Royal Family's image yesterday in a new-look Christmas broadcast.

The documentary-style programme, at 9 minutes 55 seconds the longest ever, was more relaxed than previous festive messages which have traditionally featured the Queen addressing the camera *in a formal manner.*

This year, highlights from the year were weaved into the package with a voice-over commentary from the Queen, who spoke of the "almost unbearable" sadness at the *death of Diana, Princess of* Wales. More time was devoted *to the tragedy* — 2 minutes 15 seconds — than any other subject and extensive footage of the funeral and of the floral tributes outside Kensington Palace was included in the broadcast.

This year the programme was produced by ITN for the first time, thus ending the BBC's 64-year monopoly. It was broadcast in full to every Commonwealth country, also to its biggest potential audience as it made its debut live on the Internet.

The full text of the broadcast was:

"At the Christian heart of this United Kingdom stands Westminster Abbey, and it was right that it provided the setting for two events this year, one of them almost unbearably sad, and one, for *Prince Philip and me, tremendously happy.*

Joy and sadness are part of all our lives. Indeed, the poet William Blake tells us that: 'Joy and woe are woven fine, A clothing for the soul divine, Under every grief and pine runs a joy with silken twine'. This interweaving of joy and woe has been very much *brought home to me and my* family during the last months. *We all felt the shock* and sorrow of Diana's death.

Thousands upon thousands of you expressed your grief most poignantly in the wonderful flowers and messages left in tribute to her. That was a great comfort to all those close to her.

> ❛ Being united is the glue that bonds together a family, a country, a commonwealth ❜

But *Prince Philip and I also* knew the joy of our Golden *Wedding.* We were glad to be able to share this joy at Buckingham Palace with many others couples, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

Then, on our anniversary day, came a very different service at Westminster Abbey, *this time 'the silken twine'*, a service of thanksgiving for our 50 happy years together. And, after that service, a chance to meet and chat to so many people.

I will never forget that day, nor a day five years ago when Windsor Castle suffered a terrible fire. More *than* a hundred rooms were badly *damaged. This is how St* George's Hall looked then [pictures of wreckage]. And this is how it looks now — wonderful! [pictures of the restoration]

So the disaster of 1992 actually brought opportunities for all sorts of people to *display their range of crafts*manship and skills, their love of history, and their faith in the future. Last month the restoration of the castle was completed and everyone involved gathered together to celebrate.

The castle is shortly to be *open again for all to see,* a mixture of the original with later additions and alterations, a vigorous blend of the old and the new.

And so it has been in the Commonwealth. Prince Philip and I were touched by the way the Canadian people wel*comed us again to* Canada. We were delighted to be invited to visit Pakistan and India on the 50th anniversary of their Independence, and to celebrate their achievements since 1947.

The Prince of Wales represented Britain when the people of Hong Kong marked their return to China in spec*tacular fashion [pictures of* fireworks display]

Many of you might have felt a twinge of sadness as we in Britain bade them farewell. The pictures speak for themselves, but we should be proud of the success of our partnership in Hong Kong and in *how peacefully the old Empire* has been laid to rest. Out of the old Empire sprang the Commonwealth family of nations that we know today, and that, too, has grown and changed.

In October, 51 representatives of Commonwealth governments met in Edinburgh, very *much* in the spirit of a family gathering. We all enjoy *meeting old friends and mak*ing new ones, but there was also important business to be done. Here, with the Prime Minister of Grenada, we are discussing the drugs problem [pictures of discussion].

The world saw that the Commonwealth can make a *major contribution to interna*tional relations and prosperi*ty.* The meeting also showed that unity and diversity can go hand in hand.

Recent developments at home, which have allowed Scotland and Wales greater say in the way they are governed, *should* be seen in that light and as proof that the *kingdom can still* enjoy all the benefits of remaining united. Being united — that is, feeling a unity of purpose — is the glue that bonds together the members of a family, a country, a commonwealth. Without it, the parts are only fragments of a whole, with it we can be *much more than the sum* of those fragments.

For most of us this is a happy family day. But I am well aware that there are many of you who are alone, or bereaved, or suffering. My heart goes out to you, and I pray that we, the more fortunate ones, can *unite to lend* a helping hand wherever it is needed, and not 'pass by on the other side'.

Saint Paul spoke of the first Christmas as the kindness of God dawning upon the world. The world needs that kindness now more than ever — the *kindness and consideration* for others that disarms malice and which allows us to get on with one another with respect and affection.

Christmas reaffirms that God is with us today. But, as I have discovered afresh for myself this year, he is always present in the kindness shown by our neighbours and in the *love of our friends and family.*

God bless you all and Happy Christmas."

Leading article, page 17

JOHN STILLWELL

The Queen making her Christmas television broadcast, which was expected to attract its largest audience

Instead of Christmas, a two-minute call

By Stephen Farrell

TWO thousand miles from the Christ*mas dinner tables they expected to* be gracing, the crew of *HMS Invincible* yesterday shrugged off their disappointment and celebrated somewhere off Cyprus.

The aircraft carrier was due home at Portsmouth for the holiday but was diverted from the West Indies to the eastern Mediterranean during the crisis over Iraq's ban on UN weapons inspectors.It will remain deployed *until further notice.*

The 1,200 sailors and 100 RAF crew aboard were given free two-minute calls home.Most will receive no presents as they were expecting to receive them in person. Among the disappointed relatives, Claire Clarke, 31, who is seven months pregnant, said that her two children were missing their *father, a leading* steward on board.Mrs Clarke, of Hilsea, Ports*mouth, said: "We are so disappointed.* We were really looking forward to being together. It really gets to you. You think: 'There goes the Navy again, disrupting our lives.' But no matter how much you dislike it, it's their job."

Invincible is providing cover for *HMS Coventry*, the Armilla Patrol vessel in the Gulf, whose sailors were among dozens of Service personnel around the world to receive calls from *George Robertson, the Defence Secre*tary, yesterday thanking them for performing their duties.He contacted peacekeeping soldiers in Banja Luka, Bosnia, and RAF Tornado staff in Turkey and Saudi Arabia patrolling no-fly zones over Iraq.

RAF families on one of the world's remotest airbases, Goose Bay in northern Canada, received a Hercules transporter load of Christmas supplies *from the supermarket chain* Somerfield, flown in from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire.

☐ British officials in Cyprus dismissed suggestions that Britain failed to intervene to secure the release of a Briton on a ship seized by its mainly Syrian crew. James Wilkinson was escorted off the 16,500-ton timber carrier *Blue Breeze* in high seas off Cyprus by police at midnight on *Tuesday. Its crew sailed the Panamani*an-flagged ship to Latakia, Syria.

Norma Reid, duty officer at the British High Commission in Nicosia, said:"Mr Wilkinson had acknowledged it was thanks to the action we took with the Panamanians that he was a free man." A senior official of the Cyprus merchant shipping depart*ment had said earlier that Britain did* not intervene to get Mr Wilkinson off *the ship earlier* because *it felt that it* had no jurisdiction.

Mr Wilkinson, acting on behalf of a European bank that held the mortgage on the vessel, embarked on the Syrian-owned ship at Lagos, Nigeria, with instructions to sail the ship to Gibraltar. The 23-member crew failed to heed his orders and switched course towards *Latakia.* Authorities were informed of the situation when Mr *Wilkinson sent a coded message to his* superiors saying that he felt threatened.

Ms Reid said the Foreign Office contacted the Panamanian authorities and obtained permission that enabled the Cypriot authorities to get Mr Wilkinson off the ship.

Young want peace, says Belfast pupil

A BELFAST schoolgirl yesterday expressed the hopes of Northern Ireland's young people for peace, in Channel 4's *Alternative Christmas Message* (Carol Midgley writes). In a five-minute broadcast featuring her own poetry, Margaret Gibney, who met the Prime Minister in the summer, *told of how today's teen*agers were unencumbered by past grievances and hatreds.

Margaret, 13, who is from the Shankill area, had impressed Channel 4's chief executive, Michael Jackson, with her letter-writing campaign to 150 world leaders calling for an end to war. She had been invited to Downing Street by Tony Blair where she urged him not to abandon the search for a solution to the Province's problems..

Margaret commissioned *her classmates to appear in* the film, which was recorded recently. Earlier this week she appeared on television when the Duchess of Kent presented her with a Champion Children award.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman on neglect charge

A Doncaster woman has appeared in court accused of neglecting three children days after her 17-year-old son died of suspected malnutrition. The boy, who weighed four stone, was found in his bedroom earlier this month.

The emaciated teenager was taken to hospital by paramedics but died soon afterwards. Police later arrested a 44-year-old divorcee. She was questioned about *the boy's death* and charged with neglecting three other *children.*

The woman appeared in court *in Doncaster on* Wednesday and was remanded in custody until the new year. An inquest on the dead schoolboy, who had been studying for his A levels, was halted by the coroner.

76-year marriage

A couple who have been married for 76 years are claiming Britain's longest union. John and Madge Briers, of Darrington, West Yorkshire, both 95, married on *Christmas Eve* 1921. Mr Briers, a mining engineer, worked abroad for 32 years but they made frequent trips to see each other. Their daughter Betty, 75, lives with them.

Car girls named

Two 17-year-old girls who died when their car went out of control and collided with an oncoming vehicle were named as Helen Jordan, who was driving, and Kathryn Mock, both of Wickford, Essex. The *accident happened on the* A130 near Rettendon on Tues*day night.* A middle-aged couple in the other car received minor injuries.

One-way ticket

Badgers were given a one-way trapdoor to leave a honeycomb of sets, during repairs on a steam-train embankment which they had undermined at Havenstreet, Isle of Wight. The protected animals moved to a bank in a cutting further down the line. Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture *served as advisers on the* operation.

Fowl good turn

Two policemen came to the rescue of two disabled people in Brentwood, Essex, who were unable to remove their cooked turkey from the oven after a friend had earlier helped to put it in. Sheila Kingston said: "We've had a sample now it's out of the oven and it seems the policemen came at just the right time — it's done to perfection."

Pride precedes MP's fall from favour with voters

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

NEW Labour women MPs who accuse the Tories of sexism and *rudeness* can take comfort from a television documentary: things could have been worse.

Campaign Confessions to be shown this weekend reveals a degree of arrogance *from one defeated Tory* that makes many of his victorious colleagues look like models of humility.

Tony Marlow, the Eurosceptic who lost Northampton North for the Tories on May 1, is one of ten election candidates who feature in the fly-on-the-wall *documentary about* the run-up to polling day.

As he chases votes in the marginal seat, Mr Marlow is heard asking one elector "to *help me stop the Europeans* from taking over". The man *says he will not support the* Tories. Mr Marlow tells aides: "He's an ugly-looking sod, he's voting Labour."

After a bruising encounter with a woman who argues eloquently against the Tories' education policies, Mr Marlow berates his team: "You let *me in for a school teacher.* Don't you let me in for a school teacher again. They're half intelligent, that's the problem. People ought to be one thing or the other."

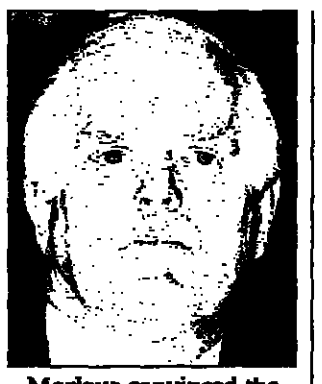
As polling day dawns, Mr *Marlow — who describes* Tony Blair as "that great grinning moron" — is asked whether he follows any rituals to bring him luck. "I might *crucify the odd feminist* or something," he says.

Unlike *Mr Marlow*, who continues to insist that the opinion polls are wrong until the 10,000 Labour majority over him is declared, other Tories are more canny.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, who retained *the* seat of Wealden in Sussex, is aware *that sleaze is hurting the* Conservative campaign. "One would almost wish that there had been one great big scandal involving one person — the sort of thing we hear about in French politics — but here it's *been a series of sexual* scandals."

The programme also follows Kim Howells, now a Minister at the Department for Education and Employment, as he campaigns in the safe seat of Pontypridd. Dr Howells admits to doubts about the party's strategy of putting Tony Blair so firmly at the heart of its campaign. "But I always mistrust the big ideas and the bright young *things that we employ to come* up with them."

☐ *Campaign Confessions,* 4.25pm BBC2, Saturday and Sunday.



Marlow: convinced the opinion polls were wrong

Plea over World Cup goal

Bid to stage tournament may rest on fans' record, reports **Phil Webster**

THE Government will step up its efforts today to help Eng*land to win the battle to stage* the 2006 World Cup, with a *warning to football fans to* stay away from the finals in France next summer unless they have tickets.

Ministers hope that England may be edging ahead of Germany as the leading European candidate for 2006, and Tony Blair has urged colleagues do all they can to assist the bid. The behaviour of England supporters next year could have a crucial bearing on the decision by the 24-man executive of Fifa, the sport's governing body.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said yesterday that if England supporters behaved well in France, it would do much to strengthen the bid: "They can play their part not just in helping England to do well *in 1998, but in the* campaign to bring the World *Cup here eight years later.*"

Today the Home Office will back up the campaign by warning fans not lucky enough to get tickets in advance to forget any idea of travelling to France in the hope of securing them there. Most of the tickets will be sold beforehand, and *ministers* believe the prospect of supporters roaming around France in the hope of picking them up at on the black market would be a recipe for trouble. Although there will *always* be a minority of hardcore hooligans bent on trouble — *from other countries* just as much as from England — the authorities will find it easier to deal with them if other true fans are not wandering around trying to find tickets for matches.

Football Association officials say that the high-level political backing for the bid is causing massive interest in other countries and is proving an important boost. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, and Sir Bobby Charlton, a hero of England's 1966 winning team, recently returned from a visit to the United States, Trinidad and Costa Rica to see three of the executive members.

One of the bid organisers said: "There is a lot of interest around the world in the new Blair Government and people seem genuinely impressed that he has put his weight behind this bid. *Another* big factor is the huge interest in English football at present with so many foreign stars playing in the Premiership.

"Finally, the success we had in staging Euro '96, and the *fact that we have so many* fine stadiums, brought up to date after the implementation of the Taylor report on Hillsborough, are proving to be big pluses for us." South Africa may be England's main rival from outside Europe.

Mr Banks said yesterday that England was ready to stage another World Cup: "When the decision on 2006 is made, we want it to be on merit. We don't want people saying that we lost our chance because some of our supporters let us down in France. If there is serious trouble, it will *jeopardise our chances.*"

The John Lewis Clearance.
It's like a sale, only better.

FIRST DAY MONDAY AT PETER JONES - Sloane Square. JOHN LEWIS, OXFORD STREET, BRENT CROSS, ABERDEEN, CHEADLE, EDINBURGH, HIGH WYCOMBE **FIRST DAY TUESDAY** AT JOHN LEWIS BRISTOL KINGSTON, MILTON KEYNES, PETERBOROUGH, WELWYN. BAINBRIDGE - Newcastle. BONDS - Norwich. CALEYS - Windsor. COLE BROTHERS - Sheffield. HEELAS - Reading. JESSOP & SON - Nottingham. KNIGHT & LEE - Southsea. GEORGE HENRY LEE - Liverpool. ROBERT SAYLE - Cambridge. TREWINS - Watford. TYRRELL & GREEN - Southampton

At John Lewis Department Stores, even during a clearance, it's business as usual. For instance our pricing policy, summed up by 'Never Knowingly Undersold', means that if we find a local retailer offering the same goods at a lower price, we will reduce ours accordingly, even if their goods are in a sale. We still deliver free across a wide area. And whatever you buy, you can return it if you are not completely satisfied. The John Lewis Clearance. It's better than a sale.

JOHN LEWIS
Department Stores

هكذا من الأصل

Hurricane sweeps across Britain

Continued from page 1

hitting Fermanagh first and moving across Tyrone, Armagh and Down. Scores of roads were blocked by fallen trees and in County Down parts of the coast road along Strangford Lough were flooded by high tides backed up by the wind.

In Scotland, some 4,000 homes were without electricity after the tail end of the storms whipped the Dumfries and Galloway region, just north of the border with England.

Philip Eden, spokesman for the PA Weather Centre, said: "The high winds have their origin in a series of Atlantic depressions. It was the severest storm to hit the British Isles since December 1993.

"London and the South east escaped the worst of the Christmas Eve storms, but were expected to be battered last night.

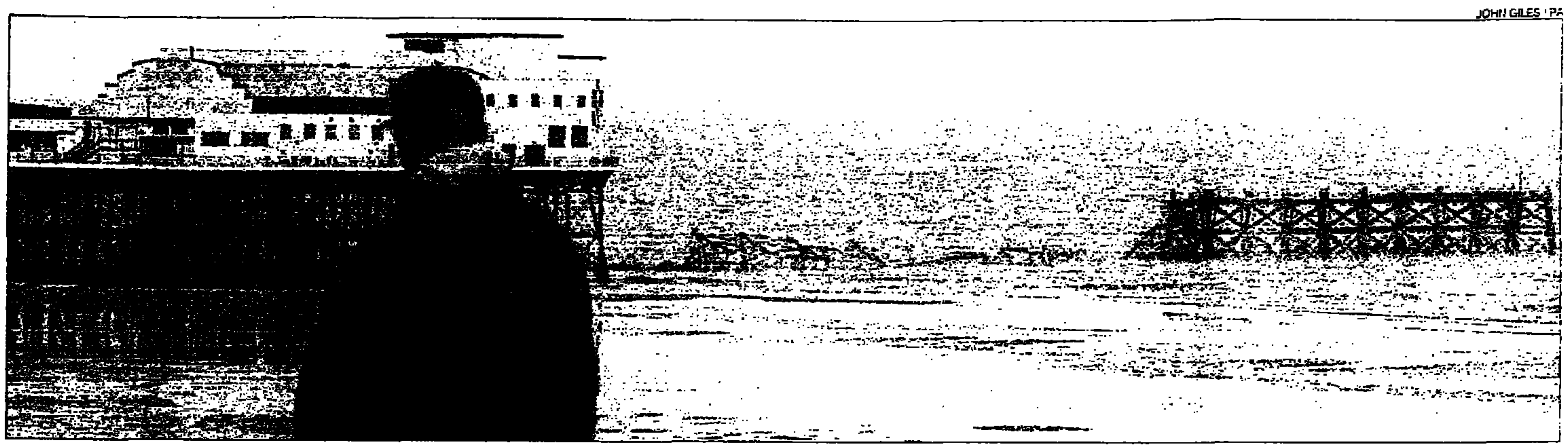
"Peak winds were expected around 80 mph on exposed headlands and islands, perhaps approaching 70 mph in London through the evening. That is strong enough to do damage, knocking slates off, blowing dustbin lids about and toppling fences."

Elsewhere heavy rain today will give way to blustery showers, particularly in the North and West, with winds steadying at around 30 to 50 mph in exposed areas.

The weathermen were congratulating themselves. It has taken a decade of weather bulletins to live down the fiasco of the great storm of October 15, 1987, when Michael Fish dismissed the approach of a hurricane.

Forecast, page 20

JOHN GILES / PA



Battered Blackpool: a section of the resort's North Pier, smashed by the sea yesterday. Below: a car wrecked by a falling gable end of an hotel and a nursing home conservatory blown down by the gale

Six rescued after ship safety drill goes wrong

By Bill Hoffmann

SIX seamen were rescued from chill waters after a lifeboat fell overboard from a British liner during a safety drill at night in New York harbour. Two of the men from the *Edinburgh Castle* were trapped in air pockets for more than 20 minutes before they were pulled to safety.

"We were very happy to be making a rescue instead of a recovery," said Mike Rivadeneyra, a police diver. "The water was freezing cold."

The cruise ship was docked at Pier 88 on the Hudson River in Manhattan. The six men were inside a 45ft lifeboat when it became unhinged from its harness and plunged into the water. Four were quickly pulled to safety after crewmates threw lifelines. They were named as Benjamin Phillips, 22, Anton Darson, 53, Alex Burns, 47, and Peter Dunga, 40. The two others remained trapped underneath the capsized boat.

The first emergency services rescuer on the scene, David Norman, a police diver, was lowered 50ft by rope ladder into the debris-filled river and swam underneath the boat. He said: "It was very difficult. There was only about a foot of visibility."

He found one sailor gasping for breath in a tiny air pocket under the hull. Mr Norman said: "He was kicking and flailing like anyone would be. Hypothermia was setting in. He held his breath and I pulled him down and swam him to the rope ladder by the ship." The man was not identified.

Four other divers, including two who jumped into the water from a hovering helicopter, found the second man, identified as Arie Supit, 49, in another air pocket under the lifeboat, tangled in ropes and too frightened to swim to safety.

Tom Bierne, another diver, said: "He was in a panic state. I told him to calm down and take three deep breaths. He said, 'No, I can't make it'." Mr Bierne pushed the mouthpiece from his oxygen tank into Mr Supit's mouth and coaxed him to try to reach safety, but the sailor hit the side of the boat. Divers cut a 2ft hole through the glass-fibre hull and pulled the sailor to safety.

The 1,000-berth ship, formerly the *Eugenio Costa*, was bought last June by British-based Lowline and takes holidaymakers to Bermuda and Canada. The company owner, David Grimes, said: "We are deeply grateful to the police rescue team."

'Road rage' victim is critically ill

By Stephen Farrell

A WOMAN was critically ill in hospital with head injuries last night after a suspected "road rage" attack on Christmas Eve.

Joanne Davies, 20, underwent emergency surgery after being allegedly dragged from her vehicle and beaten around the head when the car driven by her boyfriend was in collision with another car in Pembroke, west Wales.

She was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries and later transferred to the specialist head injuries unit at Morriston Hospital, Swansea, where doctors described her condition as critical but stable.

Dyfed-Powys police have appealed for witnesses to the incident. A man has been arrested.

A bystander said that there was a minor collision between two cars and in the ensuing violence one woman was seriously hurt. Another woman and a number of men are also believed to have been involved.

£15m footballer is accused of assault

By Robin Young

THE footballer Stan Collymore has been charged with assault. The striker who was once the country's most expensive player was arrested in Cannock, Staffordshire, on Christmas Eve. He has been bailed to appear before local magistrates.

Collymore cost Liverpool £8.5 million when he joined them from Nottingham Forest in 1995. After his transfer, he ran into trouble for missing training sessions and was sold to Aston Villa for £7 million after two seasons.

Collymore: arrested on Christmas Eve

He is to play in the Villa team against Tottenham Hotspur today. With half the season gone, he has scored only four goals, and has been the subject of renewed criticism from fans.

Collymore, 26, who recently dated Ulrika Jonsson, the presenter of the television show *Gladiators*, has had complex personal relationships.

He has a 23-month-old son, Thomas, by a former lover, Michelle Green, whom he dated regularly while living with his fiancée, Lotta Farley.

Ms Green took Collymore to court last year claiming that he was making inadequate payments for their son's maintenance. The £15,000-a-week player subsequently bought a house for her and Thomas, close to his own five-bedroomed detached home near Cannock.

Second parent gives kidney

By Philip Delves Broughton

MORE than two decades after Elaine Kear's mother donated a kidney to save her daughter's life, her father has given a kidney to save her again.

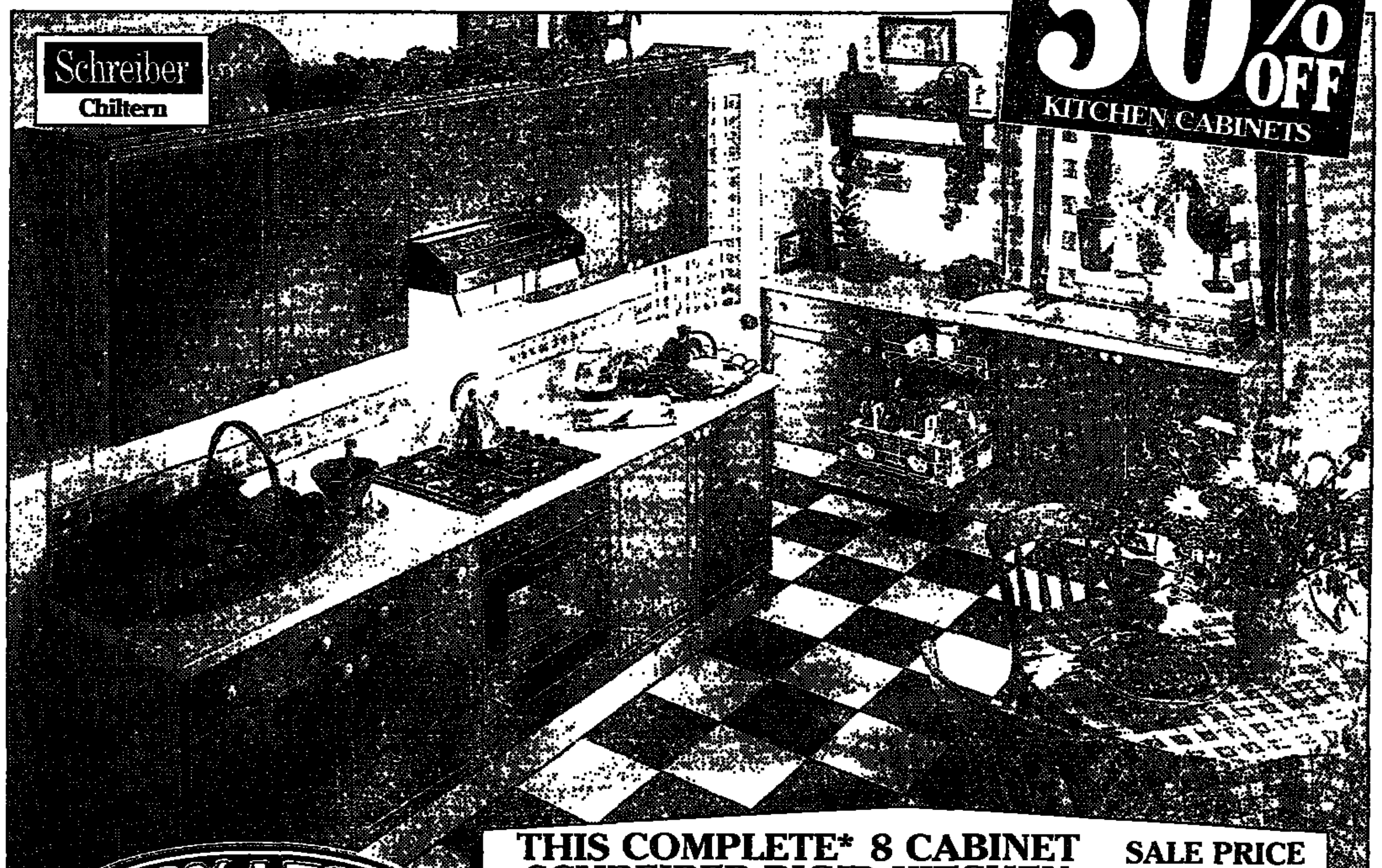
This Christmas Mrs Kear, 45, has been able to enjoy festive fare without the restraints imposed by her once fragile constitution.

In 1976, Mrs Kear received a kidney from her mother, Sheila Corry. She was 25 and had been suffering from kidney trouble since the age of 17. The operation was a success until this year when problems recurred. It was the turn of her father, David Corry, 66, a former Royal Marine, who waved aside his daughter's concerns for his own health and offered one of his kidneys.

Both operations took place at the Wessex Regional Renal and Transplant Centre, in Portsmouth.

Mr Corry decided to donate his kidney after visiting his daughter in Abu Dhabi, where she lives with her husband, David, and daughter Lauren, 13.

Since her latest transplant, Mrs Kear has been staying with her parents, in Gosport, Hampshire, and hopes to return to the Middle East in the new year. She said: "I keep saying thank you to my parents but it just sounds so insignificant when you consider what they've done for me. The transplants have transformed my life."



STARTS TODAY 9AM-6PM
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RIGID KITCHEN SALE
UP TO 50% OFF KITCHEN CABINETS
15 SUPERB KITCHENS BUILT BY SCHREIBER
Schreiber Chiltern
20% LESS THAN ANY OTHER NATIONAL RETAILER'S QUOTE GUARANTEED
See in-store for claims details
THIS COMPLETE* 8 CABINET SCHREIBER RIGID KITCHEN
COMPRISING OF:
1000mm Hi-Line Base Unit x 2 ■ 1000mm Drawer Line Base Unit x 1 ■ 600mm Drawer Line Base Unit x 1 ■ 600mm Built Under Oven Housing Unit x 1 ■ 1000mm Full Height Wall Unit x 2 ■ 600mm Hob Wall Unit x 1
INCLUDING AN INTEGRATED DISHWASHER AND AEG OVEN, HOB AND EXTRACTOR
SALE PRICE £1955
Was £2364
[illegible]
PRICE APPLIANCE OFFERS
THIS INTEGRATED DISHWASHER
APLS214/24 Was £429 SALE PRICE £399
£199† SAVE £200
(Excludes kitchen decor door)
OR
£200 OFF†
ANY INTEGRATED DISHWASHER FROM OUR RANGE
HALF PRICE FRANKE SINK
£49† SAVE £50
(SIN4161/2)
(Price is for sink only excluding accessories)
CURRENT IN-STORE PRICE £99
†When you spend £500 or more on any Hygena or Schreiber kitchen. Offer limited to one per customer/household. Not transferable to any other product. (Offer applies to Hygena & Schreiber cabinets and accessories included in the Kitchen Price List)
AEG ELECTRIC SINGLE OVEN PACKAGE
PACKAGE AXA9311/2
SALE PACKAGE PRICE £499
Was £619
SAVE £120
AEG Electric Single Oven AEG3311/21 Mocca/White Was £389 .... £349
AEG Gas Hob AEG1119/29 Mocca/White Was £159 .... £135
AEG 60cm Cooker Hood AEG2115/25 Mocca/White Was £89 .... £65
MFI home works
HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS: Boxing Day Friday 26th December 9-6, Saturday 9-6, Sunday 11-5, Monday 9-8, Tuesday 9-6, Wednesday New Year's Eve 9-5, Thursday New Year's Day 10-6, Scottish stores closed New Year's Day. Northern Ireland exceptions: Sunday 1-6, Monday 9-6.
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE SCOOT 0800 192 192
EXPERT INSTALLATION
BEST VALUE - FULLY GUARANTEED
SEE IN-STORE FOR FULL DETAILS

Anonymous tip-off sparked newspaper inquiry that ended with 17-year-old accused of selling cannabis

Minister's son 'spoke of pros and cons of drug'

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN ANONYMOUS telephone call to the newsroom of *The Mirror* launched the inquiry that led to the teenage son of a senior Cabinet minister being arrested for allegedly supplying cannabis.

It was an investigation that involved reporters claiming they were trainee estate agents, conversations in a pub about raves, and rumours of cocaine-taking by celebrities. It ended with a senior member of Tony Blair's Government accompanying his son to a police station.

The tip-off was made in a telephone call to Dawn Alford, a reporter on *The Mirror*, shortly before Christmas. The caller made certain allegations about the minister's 17-year-old son. Miss Alford was told: "Watch this pub, not only will you be amazed at what he's doing but you will also be very surprised at who his parents are."

Miss Alford and a colleague went to the crowded London pub on a Saturday night and, according to *The Mirror*, five minutes after they arrived the minister's son, dressed in a sweat shirt, jeans and T-shirt, walked in. Within minutes, Miss Alford and her colleague were talking to him and four of his friends, who took it in turn to buy rounds of lager, about festivals and rock concerts. About 30 minutes later, the subject of drugs was said to have been raised as the Cabinet minister's son talked about raving, the legal drug poppers, and rumours of cocaine-taking by celebrities.

THE TRAP

According to *The Mirror*, the conversation later moved to cannabis as the youth talked about the pros and cons of hash (resin) or grass (leaves). Miss Alford said that the minister's son then offered to sell her cannabis in a resin form. He allegedly said a friend had cannabis to sell "at 10s" and went on to explain that the expression meant the batch cost £10 and was likely to be enough to make ten joints. He is alleged to have winked at her and added: "Leave it to me, I'll see what I can do."

Ten minutes later the youth allegedly tapped her on the shoulder and told her to accompany him outside the pub. There, opposite a magistrates' court, the teenager allegedly handed over a small, clear plastic bag and said it was "good strong hash" before taking the £10 note. He allegedly gave Miss Alford his telephone number and they arranged to meet again.

On the next morning, the newspaper arranged for the drug to be sent to a laboratory in London, where it was received on December 15. The tests showed that the sample was cannabis resin weighing 1.92 grams. On December 17, the newspaper received confirmation in the form of a written certificate of analysis.

The Mirror says it was later told that the minister's son planned to attend a party on Decmeber 20 at a flat in London where harder drugs were likely to be available. It was then that the paper decided to contact the minister to inform him of the alleged activities of his son. On the afternoon of December 20 Piers Morgan, the Editor, called the minister and outlined the details of the investigation.

The minister promised to investigate the allegations himself. After talking to his son, he contacted Downing Street to inform the Prime Minister's office of the situation and, at 6pm on Monday, accompanied the youth to a police station in London.

They were taken into a small room where the teenager made a statement to police. The minister asked for no special privileges and insisted that the law should take its normal course.

Police cautioned the teenager and warned him that anything he said might be used in evidence. He was asked to sign the statement confirming it was an accurate account of what he had just told them. He was released on bail and told he would have to report back to the police station at a later date.

THE DRUG

CANNABIS is by far the most popular illegal drug in Britain and has been tried by a third of people aged 16 to 29. Users are from all social groups. A Home Office survey of 11,000 households found that 35 per cent of people aged 16-19 had *used cannabis, 27 per cent in the past year and 16 per cent in* the previous month. In the 20-24 age group, 42 per cent of men and women had used cannabis, 24 per cent in the past year and 16 per cent in the previous month. In the 25-29 group, the figures were 32 per cent, 15 per cent and 8 per cent. Cannabis *comes in several forms: marijuana, comprising the heads of* female plants; cannabis resin, a compressed brown or black powder that is heated or crumbled for use; and, more rarely, cannabis oil. All forms can be smoked, pure or mixed with tobacco, and eaten, usually in cakes. The drug gives a feeling of relaxed wellbeing lasting about two hours.

This cannabis smoking scene on American TV was condemned by drug officials

Why the teenager's identity is kept secret

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

STRICT laws bar the media from identifying under-18s in court proceedings. The restrictions include information such as a parent's exact position.

Only in exceptional circumstances can courts name juveniles, although Conservative and Labour Governments have moved to give greater discretion to judges and magistrates to identity youngsters as part of "naming and shaming".

The protective curbs were first introduced in the Children and Young Persons Act of 1933, which stated that "no newspaper report of any proceedings in a youth court shall reveal the name, address, or school or include any particulars calculated to lead to the identification of any child or young person concerned in these proceedings".

THE LAW

Even though the youth has yet to appear in court, the restrictions are in operation because he has been arrested. Under the 1981 Contempt of Court Act, the legal proceedings are "active".

Although Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, was told about the case on Tuesday, it is not thought that she will deal personally with the police file when it is passed to the CPS early next month. Officials in her department will decide whether the teenager should be charged, taking into account factors such as whether courts were likely to impose only a nominal fine, and whether the incident was an isolated event arising from a misjudgment.

Most 17 year olds caught with a small amount of cannabis receive only a police caution. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "In London, virtually all persons found in possession of a small amount of cannabis would be cautioned. If the person was supplying small amounts, the most likely outcome of a court hearing would be a fine, a conditional discharge or possibly a small period of community service such as helping out at an old people's home."

If the courts were to decide on a tougher penalty, they could order reports on the youth, his family background and school record before deciding on what punishment to impose.

MPs vulnerable to family scandal

By Nicholas Watt

POLITICIANS of every hue, from Prime Ministers to backbenchers, have long been embarrassed by wayward children. The pressures of a political career make it difficult to exercise authority over their offspring.

Two of Winston Churchill's children suffered from alcohol abuse. In 1957, two years after her father had stood down as Prime Minister, Sarah Churchill was arrested in Los Angeles on a charge of drunkenness and fined $50.

Lord Shore of Stepney, the former Labour Cabinet minister, and his wife, Elizabeth, a senior civil servant, were devastated in 1977 when their son, Piers, 20, was found dead in a London squat after a drinking binge. He was awaiting sentence on a drugs charge.

In 1986, Olivia Channon, the 22-year-old daughter of Paul Channon, then Trade and Industry Secretary, died from a combination of heroin and alcohol. In the 1980s, Mary Parkinson, the eldest daughter of Lord Parkinson, the Conservative Party chairman, nearly died of drug overdoses.

THE CHILDREN

Lord Steel of Aikwood, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats, was embarrassed in 1995 when his son, Graeme, was jailed for nine months for growing cannabis worth £30,000. Graeme advocates decriminalisation of cannabis, as do many Liberal Democrats.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, once described politics and family life as "potentially a lethal combination". In 1990, Mr Straw wrote in *The Times*: "Pressures today debilitate and undermine family life . . . There is the simple fact of broken evenings and late nights. For male MPs with young families, it can be bad enough. For women MPs, much worse."

When going to police becomes only choice

IT IS every parent's nightmare: the discovery that despite all the guidance from government, school and home, their child has become involved with drugs (Richard Ford writes).

Few would go as far as the Cabinet minister and handed their child in to the police. But they do not face the extra pressures of being a public figure. The minister had no option but to go to the police. To have done nothing would have risked the media publishing the information so as to cause maximum embarrassment.

THE DILEMMA

Most parents who were asked about the issue last night said that they would not have handed their children over to the police if a small amount of cannabis was involved. One father said that first there would be an "almighty family row".

He would then talk to his child about what had been going on and contact the child's friends and their parents to raise the matter. He would probably go to the landlord of the public house where dealing was taking place.

The parent said: "I would then have a serious talk with the youngster, explaining the risks and warning him of the long-term consequences if the behaviour continued. I would warn him that any repetition would mean that I would have to go to the police and tell them what was going on. It would not be easy but it would have to be done."

Help is desperately needed for orphaned elephants like Aitong.

Aitong was rescued when she was only a few weeks old. She had been trampled by her own herd as they fled in panic from the sound of poacher's guns.

Your help will immediately provide the milk, food, medical attention and loving care that Aitong and her friends need, and also give aid to elephant conservation worldwide.

For just £24.95 you will not only help care for Aitong, but also receive a gift pack containing:
- A colour photograph of Aitong
- A personalised fostering certificate
- A VHS video of all the orphans
- A fostering window sticker
- An update after six months

The gift pack is also available individually (without a donation) for £5.95

Care for the Wild International, 1 Ashfolds, Horsham Road, Rusper, West Sussex, RH12 4QX. Tel (01293) 871596
Registered Charity [illegible]

Yes! I would like to foster the orphan, Aitong:
Person making payment:
Name
Address
Postcode
Foster parent:
Name
Address
Postcode
Please send initial pack to: The foster parent ☐ The person making payment ☐
I enclose a cheque/postal order (Payable to Care for the Wild International) ☐
or debit my credit card (Details below) ☐ for the following amount: £
Visa/Amex/Mastercard No. Exp. Date
(If the person receiving the initial gift pack is abroad please add £3.00 Europe £6.00 elsewhere)
To receive further information about Care for the Wild International please tick here ☐

DEBENHAMS
The SALE
Starts Tomorrow*
8am
Shop early for Half Price bargains throughout the store
All stores also open Sunday 28 December
DEBENHAMS
Stock subject to availability in all Debenhams stores including Browns of Chester.
*Sale starts today at 9am in Scotland.
http://www.debenhams.co.uk

هكذا من الإصل

Baby Molly gives mother an unexpected Christmas gift

By Philip Delves Broughton

JULIE ANGLIN thought she was suffering from appendicitis after a day spent moving furniture. When the doctor arrived he told her: "We'd better get you into hospital. You're in labour and about to have a baby." Miss Anglin had not even realised she was pregnant, let alone that her baby had reached full term.

Yesterday, she and her partner, David Garratt, 43, from Southwell in Nottinghamshire, shared their first Christmas with six-day-old Molly, who arrived two hours after she was taken into hospital and weighed in at 5lb 6oz.

"I had absolutely no idea I was even pregnant," Miss Anglin, 35, said. "When the doctor told me I just said, 'Oh my God, I don't believe it'. I have heard about these things happening but I never thought it could be true, then it happened to me.

"Molly is the best Christmas present anyone could have. She is an unbelievably quiet baby, and she obviously managed to keep the news to herself."

Miss Anglin maintains that there was no reason for her to suspect she was pregnant. She had put on a few pounds, but she put that down to extra eating, while her menstrual cycle had always been irregular. "Because I'd never been pregnant before I didn't really know what to look out for. Looking back I suppose there were little signs — I had cravings for strange foods like liver, but that's me all over."

Surprise births are not uncommon, particularly among older women who imagine their childbearing days are behind them, women with irregular periods, and women who fail to sense, as some claim to be able to do, the exact moment of conception.

Miss Anglin has given up her part-time job to look after Molly and to catch up on baby business. Before the surprise birth, the couple had given no thought to nappies, nurseries or romper suits. They are now on a steep learning curve with the help of friends and family.

Mr Garratt, Miss Anglin's partner of the past three years and a driver for the local council, said: "We have got everything now but before the weekend we did not even have a pair of baby socks."

Molly's surprise entrance has also had helped Miss Anglin's family through a difficult period. She said: "It has been a traumatic time over the past few weeks as my grandfather died. The family were in grief but Molly has come as pleasant news for everyone."

Mr Garratt admits to a certain numbness when told of his imminent fatherhood. "I was in shock. We had never planned to have children but I am so proud. I'm the happiest man alive because I don't think I could have wished for a better present."

DOUG MARKE

Julie Anglin with David Garrett and Molly, "the best Christmas present anyone could have"

Season of cheer for twins with the gift of life

By Russell Jenkins

THE parents of Britain's only surviving set of Siamese twins are celebrating a special Christmas. Their daughters have thrived since an operation last summer freed them to live healthy, independent lives.

Aoife and Niamh McDonnell were joined at the chest and abdomen and shared a liver, when they born on April 17 at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester. They were separated in a six-hour operation at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children on June 19.

It was an agonising decision to allow the surgeons, led by Professor Lewis Spitz, to go ahead with the separation. However, the sight of the two elfin-faced toddlers pushing babywalkers around the living room of their home in Longsight, Manchester, is proof, the parents say, that the decision was the right one.

Six months after the operation, the only signs of their extraordinary birth are scars on their stomachs. They are already fading. Their mother, Joan Varley, said: "They don't even need any drugs, and I really only take them back for check-ups so everyone can see them again. They are spoiled rotten.

"It has been an incredibly difficult, emotional time but looking at them now, hearing them chuckle, I know that I would, if I had to, go through it all again. They are just the best."

Although the girls are fast developing their own personalities, they are rarely apart. They like to nuzzle each other and frequently stretch out to stroke the face of the other. Aoife is more demanding than her sister and is already trying to crawl. She is heavier, and has two teeth. Niamh, who is smaller, spent longer in intensive care.

Miss Varley and her partner, Paul McDonnell, were anxious to shield the family from the glare of publicity at the time of the operation. Now they are happy to let the world know that the girls are well, although there is a problem. The mother said: "I cannot go shopping in Stockport because I cannot go two yards without people stopping and saying how gorgeous they are, and the girls love the attention. People have been very kind."

The family was celebrating Christmas at home before a probable move to a bigger house in the new year. The long-term plan is to return to Ireland to be near Miss Varley's family of seven brothers and six sisters.

Yeast cells give clues to ageing in humans

Scientists are beginning to understand how cells die, reports

Nigel Hawkes

SCIENTISTS in the US have discovered an ageing mechanism in yeast cells that may one day make it possible to slow the process of human ageing.

They have found that the yeast cells become clogged with tiny coils of the genetic material DNA which break off from the chromosomes and proliferate until the cell becomes overwhelmed and dies. These "mortal coils" — to borrow from Shakespeare — appear to be responsible for the process of cell death, at least in this kind of cell.

"It is remarkable that this mechanism of ageing in yeast cells is so simple at the molecular level," Professor Leonard Guarante and Dr David Sinclair of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology write in the journal *Cell*. "It is conceivable that inhibitors of this ageing process can be found and if so, such strategies might eventually prove useful in forestalling ageing in yeast and, perhaps, in higher organisms."

The search for the elixir of youth is a recurrent theme of fiction, from the story of Faust to Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The desire for immortality has led to countless theories of ageing, but until recently little was actually known about how deterioration in function is related to cellular and molecular changes. However, earlier this year the MIT team identified a gene in Werner's Syndrome, a rare disease, whose carriers have symptoms resembling a speeded-up ageing process. They also showed that modifying that gene in yeast speeded ageing.

From other yeast studies they found a series of genes that appear to determine lifespan, and found that the products of these genes moved into the nucleolus — a structure in the nucleus of the cell — implying that perhaps the nucleolus was the "Achilles' heel" of cells as they get older.

They found that the nucleolus eventually breaks up, preventing yeast cells from continuing to divide. The latest work identifies what it is that causes the nucleolus to grow larger and ultimately to fragment. This, the scientists say, is the accumulation of the DNA rings, which they call "extrachromosomal ribosomal DNA circles", or ERCs. They are created from lengths of DNA pinched off from the chromosomes as the cell divides. They have found that the older the cell, the more ERCs it contains. Ultimately, they become so plentiful that they gum up the normal processes of cell division, and the cell dies.

The ERCs act as a kind of clock, Professor Guarente suggests. "Once an ERC is formed or inherited, the period of time until a lethal number of ERCs has accumulated may be the clock that determines the lifespan of the cell."

ERCs can apparently form as a result of two processes. One is damage to DNA, which occurs all the time, and is usually efficiently repaired. The suggestion is that the ERCs are part of the repair process but, paradoxically, ultimately accumulate and cause cell death. But ERCs can also be inherited, suggesting that some cells are designed to have a built-in clock that limits their lifespan.

The implications of the research are that it may one day be possible to inhibit ageing in cells that are analogous to the yeast cells used in the experiments. In mammals, these are the so-called stem cells, found in organs such as the skin, kidney, liver and blood. The scientists say: "Next it will be important to determine whether ERCs or other circular DNAs accumulate in stem cells of ageing mice or humans."

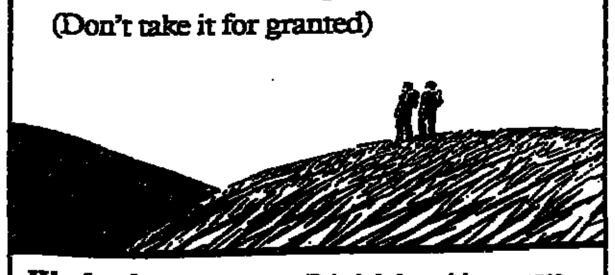
A Minor miracle makes late arrival

WHEN Richard Amner took his battered Morris Traveller to a workshop for restoration he was delighted when they told him he could collect it by Christmas. They were true to their word but failed to specify which Christmas.

Yesterday Mr Amner, 48, was able to drive his completed timber-framed Morris to visit relatives near his home in Rochford, Essex, almost five and a half years after work began.

Mr Amner bought the car, named Jessica after his daughter, for £450 and took it to the workshop owned by a friend at Hockley, Essex. "Jessica was just a baby when it all started and now she is 6 and at school," he said. "I've never really pressurised my friend but I told him I wanted it for this Christmas. The work has cost £8,000 and I suppose my wife has been upset because I haven't lavished as much on her as a husband should."

But he admitted that there had been a series of problems. "The recession came along, there was a fire at the workshops and there were gaps in me giving the go-ahead for various jobs to be done."



Breathing Space.
(Don't take it for granted)

We don't. Help us keep Britain's breathing spaces open. Footpaths and coastline, high places, heaths and woodland. For walkers.

For over 60 years, THE RAMBLERS' lobbying and vigilance have been achieving wide-ranging rights of access to some of our most beautiful countryside.

Go for a walk. Take a breather from our crowded world. Think about the future; invest in THE RAMBLERS.

Join us.

A modest subscription brings you – FREE – the essential Yearbook, full of outdoor information (over 300 pages, over 3000 places to stay, £4.99 in bookshops); the quarterly magazine, Rambling Today; membership of one of our 400 local groups. Many outdoor equipment shops offer discounts.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Address
Postcode Date of birth
Tick box for membership type required
☐ Ordinary £17 ☐ Reduced* £8.50
☐ Family/joint £21 ☐ Joint reduced* £10.50
(for two adults at same address)
*Under 18/students/retired/disabled/unwaged
Donation £____ I enclose £____
☐ We occasionally exchange names (for use once only) with other organisations which may interest you. Tick if you would prefer to be excluded.

Registered Charity No.306089

The Ramblers
Working for walkers
1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX. Tel: 0171 339 8500 TIM 26

CHOOSE FROM OVER 40 KITCHEN STYLES

YOUR MOBEN KITCHEN CAN INCLUDE ALL THIS:

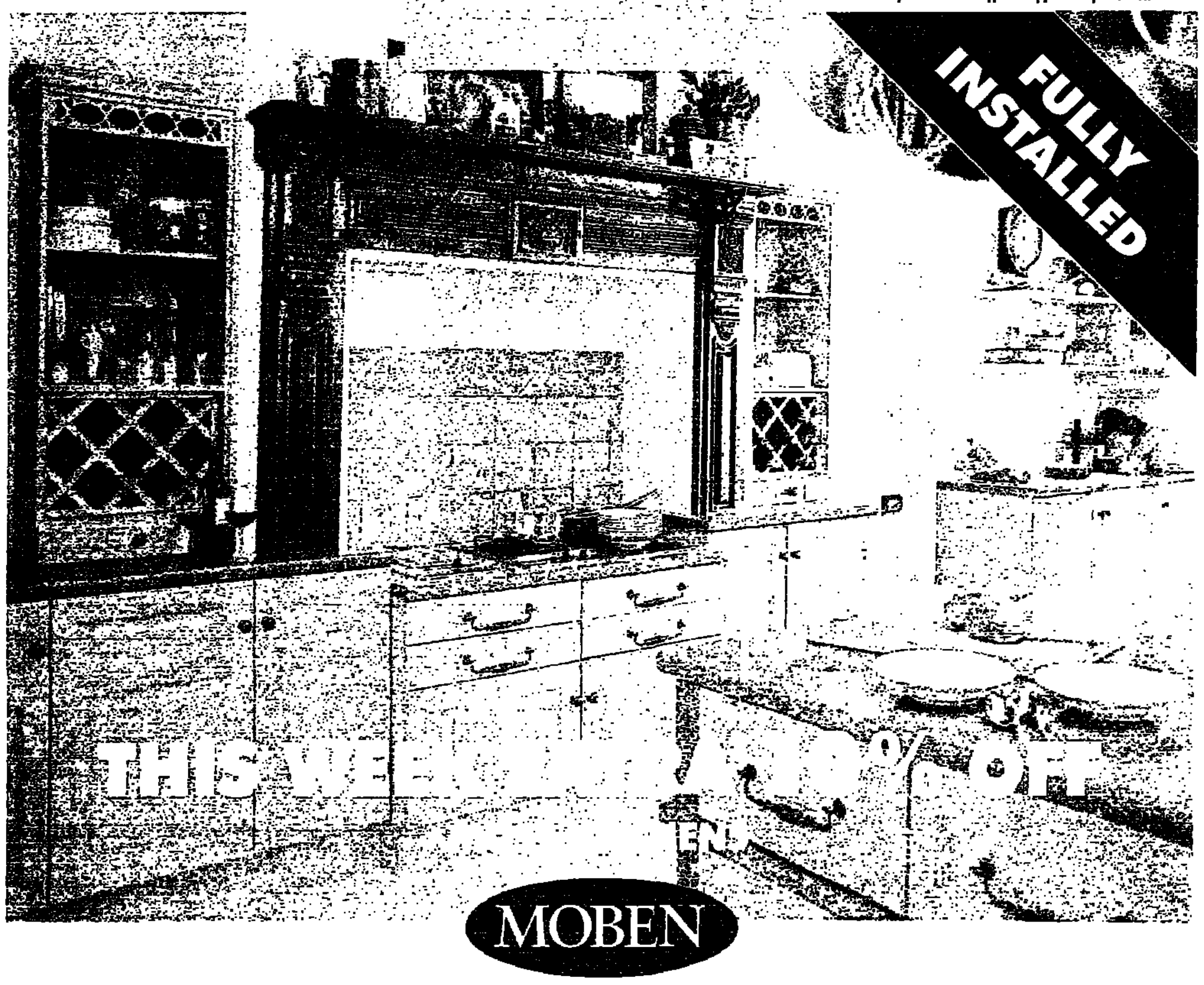
INTEGRATED APPLIANCES
RANGE OVEN
FEATURE EXTRACTOR CANOPY
BUTLER SINK & LUXURY TAPS
SOLID WOOD WORKTOPS
FORMICA 40MM THICK WORKTOPS
CORNICE MOULDINGS
LIGHT BAFFLES
WINE & PLATE RACKS
QUALITY HANDLES & KNOBS
APPLIANCE FACIA DOORS
MATCHING ISLAND UNIT & WORKTOP
MATCHING BREAKFAST BAR
WICKER BASKET DRAWERS
TONGUE & GROOVE PANELLING
ALL FULLY GUARANTEED
& INCLUSIVE OF VAT

MOBEN HALF PRICE

NEFF • TECNIK
Examples of Sale appliances
LESS THAN HALF PRICE AND INSTALLED FREE†

Neff B1420 Circotherm oven & grill available white or brown.	List price ~~£435~~ NOW £217
Neff T2113 Gas hob with push button control & pan supports.	List price ~~£175~~ NOW £87
Neff S5443 Fully integrated dishwasher 12 place settings.††	List price ~~£750~~ NOW £349
Tecnik TKC231 Deluxe fan oven & grill available in green.	List price ~~£439~~ NOW £210
Tecnik TKR601 Built under integrated larder fridge 145 ltr capacity.††	List price ~~£459~~ NOW £179

Offers only apply to kitchen purchases over £2500. Only one of each type of appliance per order.



MOBEN

VISIT THE MOBEN JANUARY SALE AT OVER 200 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE
For a free brochure and to talk direct to your local showroom call this number now

OPEN EVERY DAY INCLUDING NEW YEAR'S DAY* MON–FRI 10.00AM–5.30PM SAT 9.00AM–5.30PM SUN 10.00AM–4.00PM
*Except Scotland (Scotland Sunday 11.00am–5.00pm)

Kitchen and appliance offers only apply to kitchen purchases over £2500. Only one of each type of appliance per order. Half price refers to price list dated 24.11.97. Fitting excludes customers own appliances. †To suitable on site supplies. ††Integrated doors available at extra cost. No other offers apply.

Bishops condemn Boxing Day hunt meets

BY LIN JENKINS AND STEPHEN FARRELL

AS HUNT supporters gather for their biggest day of the year, an archbishop and six bishops have declared their support for a ban on the practice. In a letter to *The Times*, the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, and leading Church of England figures welcome the publication of a Christian Socialist Movement pamphlet against foxhunting.

Three hundred packs of hounds are expected to be in action today. Hunt protesters will also be out demonstrating in favour of the Private Member's Bill by the Labour backbencher Michael Foster to abolish hunting with hounds.

The archbishop writes: "We hope and pray that time will be found for legislation to ensure that this will be the last Boxing Day when the savage and terrifying death of an animal is treated as a sport."

The letter says that the treatment of "the rest of Creation is every bit as much a question of morality as unemployment or homelessness". Signatories include the Bishop of Dover, the Right Rev Richard Llewellin; the Bishop of Hulme, the Right Rev Colin Scott; the Bishop of Reading, the Right Rev Dominic Walker; the Bishop of Rochester, the Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali; John Austin Baker, the retired Bishop of Salisbury; and the leading Methodist Lord Soper.

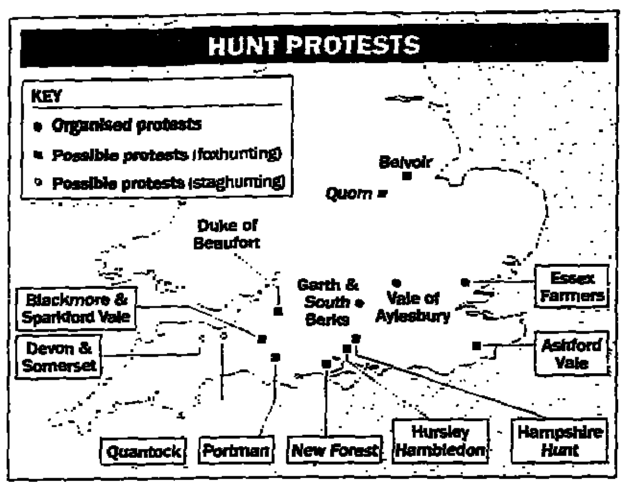
Police are preparing for confrontation between hunt followers and opponents. Fears of violence have grown after three supporters were injured and 42 saboteurs arrested at the Hursley Hambledon hunt on December 13.

Protesters wearing masks and armed with staves, iron bars and baseball bats also smashed headlights and windscreens of cars at a meet near Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire. The same group is thought to have carried out a similar attack at a meet of the Portman in Dorset two weeks earlier.

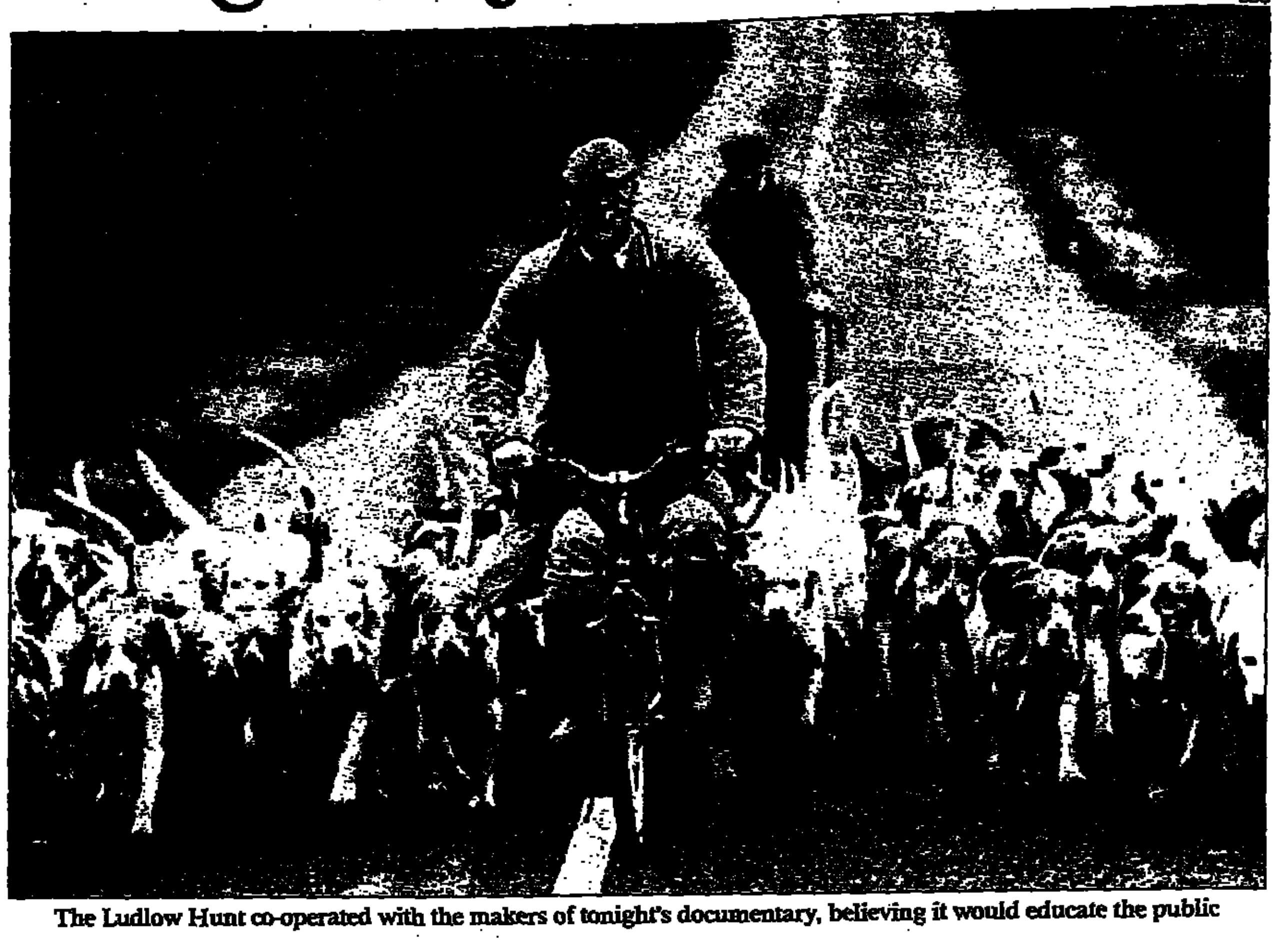
The Hunt Saboteurs Association said the attack was the work of a group calling itself the Hunt Retribution Squad: "The tactics used were not something we would condone. We run around in fields blowing hunting horns and use voice calls to disrupt the hunt."

The Duke of Beaufort's meet, with which the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles both ride, is expected to attract protests although the Prince will be at Sandringham. Hunting supporters are determined to use the day to highlight opposition to the Foster Bill. It is unlikely to become law in this parliamentary session because of lack of time, but government sources have hinted that it could be included in the Criminal Justice Bill next session.

Paul Latham, of the British Field Sports Society, said: "We will see many tens of thousands of people turning out to support the hunts. Most people will be there to see a traditional scene and support something relevant to the countryside."



Letters, page 17


The Ludlow Hunt co-operated with the makers of tonight's documentary, believing it would educate the public

BBC

BBC shows film of fox being dug out and shot

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BLOODY scenes of a pursued fox being dug out and shot will be screened on television tonight after a hunt invited a documentary crew to film them.

The hunt was unrepentant yesterday about its decision, declaring that it would help its cause. The programme, to be shown on BBC2, includes footage of an ageing hound being shot. Viewers will be warned that certain scenes might cause distress.

The Ludlow Hunt, based in Shropshire, co-operated fully in the making of the film and gave the camera crew access to their activities. Bill Andrews, former head of the hunt, said that members had realised that the public might react strongly to certain scenes but that they had wanted to show hunting life as it was to dispel "myths".

"It will be very difficult for a lot of people to accept," he said. "But there is a gulf of difference between them and people in the countryside who deal with life and death day in, day out. I do think this accurately portrays what happens with hunting."

For the first time a documentary crew was allowed to follow the hunt throughout the 1996-97 season. Filming began before Labour was returned to power and Michael Foster, the newly elected MP for Worcester, introduced his Bill that would ban hunting with hounds. During the Ludlow season, 63 foxes were killed, 18 of which were caught in the open with horse and hounds. The rest were chased into their burrows.

In the documentary, a fox is shown being dug out of its sanctuary by terrier-men who then shoot it through the head at the express wish of the farmer who owns the land. The fox's body is then torn apart by the hounds.

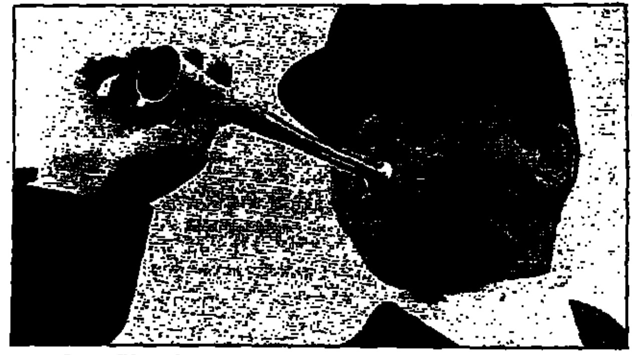
The hunt believes this will answer an urban misconception that foxes are thrown alive to the hounds. "That never happens," Mr Andrews said. "The fox is killed quickly and cleanly. What we are seeing in those scenes is fox control. It is the farmer's payback for letting us go across his land."

A hound which, the documentary says, could no longer keep up with the pack, is seen being taken into a yard and held while it is shot from behind. The keeper says: "You couldn't have them as pets; they would wreck your house. They give you nine years of pleasure. Of course it is very distressing when you have to put a hound down, but people will see this is a dog which is in its home environment being put down very quickly and without pain."

Kevin Saunders, of the League Against Cruel Sports, said there was no need to kill hounds when they could no longer hunt. "If anybody needs persuading, this film will show how barbaric, callous and cold-blooded hunting really is."

The BBC said the film was "shocking and thought-provoking" at the time of a political battle on the subject.

☐ *Under the Sun: The Hunt*, BBC2, 9pm


The film shows the hunt in the 1996-97 season

HALF PRICE SALE
NOW ON

WITH AN EXTRA 10% OFF* SALE PRICES

When you buy from Magnet, you can be sure that you get a beautiful kitchen designed to meet your every need. You can also be sure that it's built to take everything life can throw at it. Right now in the Magnet January Sale, all cabinets in over 50 kitchen and bedroom ranges have been reduced, most by 50%, and there are some great offers on NEFF and Whirlpool appliances too.
Visit your local Magnet showroom today to take advantage of these fantastic sale offers.

Magnet
Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

for your nearest showroom and opening hours call 0800 192 192

Opening hours: Friday 26th most stores will be open 10.00am-5.00pm, Saturday 27th 9.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 28th most stores will be open 10.00am-4.00pm.
Monday 29th 9.00am-5.00pm, Tuesday 30th 9.00am-5.00pm, Wednesday 31st 9.00am-5.00pm
Discounts are off prices charged between 24th November and 25th December. *When you spend £1,000 or more on kitchen cabinets

TIc13

Book early to guarantee the best price with SeaFrance, so you can relax until Summer.

Z
£89 for a car and 5 people
TM4

When embarking on your holiday this Summer you can enjoy the French atmosphere of our restaurants and bars without losing sleep over the price. SeaFrance monitor the competitive fares on a regular basis ensuring the lowest price around. This is SeaFrance's price guarantee. You can alter your dates and times of sailing before travel, free of charge.

You can't afford to lie around though. Book by 31st March 1998 and travel from Dover to Calais for only £89* return, which includes a car and up to five passengers.

the différence c'est
SEAFRANCE
0990 711711

*Tickets non-refundable.

For bookings and information visit our website at http://www.seafrance.com

The new sound? It's just a blast from the past

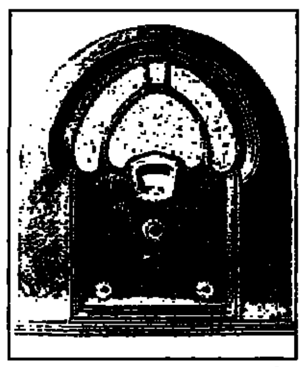
By Victoria Fletcher

IT COULD be bad news for teenagers tinkering with their new Christmas sound systems. On the 50th anniversary of the invention of the transistor, which in turn created modern hi-fi, leading figures in a 1990s music craze say that antique valve amplifiers are better designed for playing their thumping music.

The music — known as drum n'bass — is said to be left flat by modern audio. Lemon D, a producer and disc jockey of drum n'bass, says: "The natural, warm sound valve amps give makes the beats sound alive, instead of being flat and digital."

Some older devotees of valve amplifiers still make the kind of suspicious remark about transistors that modern music fans have said with each change from vinyl and tape to compact and *mini* discs: that clever advertising made people make unnecessary purchases.

The invention of the transistor in New Jersey at Christmas 1947 was meant to signal the end for the fragile, glass vacuum tubes used to amplify sound since 1917. Transistors were smaller and cheaper to produce. The valve amp needed to heat up to work, and caused a small inaccuracy in how sound was reproduced.



A Philco valve radio of 1934, in Gothic design

Within nine years, the transistor had revolutionised sound technology. By the 1960s, radios had become smaller and more affordable. The transistor's inventors, John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley, received the Nobel Prize for physics in 1956. Today's tiny transistors have been refined to produce an almost perfect amplification of the original sound.

However, this perfect reproduction is precisely what some music producers reject. Lemon D, whose record label is called Valve, says: "They represent an era before digital technology came about. It's a unique sound."

The sound achieved through a valve is said to be fuller and smoother. It is this "fatter" noise which is the basis of drum n'bass music. However, fans of the valve amp are not necessarily fans of drum n'bass.

Gerry Wells owns The Vintage Wireless Museum in South London. Aged 68, he also prefers the sound produced by the valve. "It's far superior," he says. "Transistors are clinically perfect. The valve isn't, but then again neither are our ears, so the effect is much more pleasant for our hearing."

Mr Wells has worked with valve amplifiers since he was 7, and thinks the public was fooled by advertising into converting to transistors. He says that although valves are more expensive to make than the transistor, they last far longer. In his museum, he has one valve, still working on a daily basis, which was manufactured in 1929.

Mr Wells uses original valves to repair old wirelesses, many of which are owned by very young customers. "Young people who had never heard valve amp systems are now starting to listen to them — that's why I'm in business," he added.

He feels that much modern music sounds fantastic on valve hi-fi: "If you also use speakers over thirty years old, the sound is lovely. Old speakers have matured. Together with valve amps, they can make a very powerful amount of noise."

Sound buy: listening to a five-valve Windsor radiogram, which cost 41 guineas in 1950, before the transistor took over

Richard McMahon, a lecturer in electrical engineering at Cambridge University, has built a valve amplifier which creates a pure sound on a par with that of the transistor hi-fi, and admits that he owns a valve system. He thinks that many musicians prefer the more colourful sound created by valve amplification. He said: "Some amplifiers are seen as a musical instrument with character, far less clinical than the transistor. Personally, there's a bit of magic about their engineering. They reflect a pioneering age of electronics, and create an interest just not associated with transistor equipment."

Although valve amplifiers are still installed in a few modern hi-fis made by small independent companies, many people are buying older models instead. Sales of antique bakelite radios from the 1930s have also increased in recent years, and can fetch up to £2,500 each.

Gad Sassower, who runs an antique wireless shop in Islington, North London, said: "These radios were made to last and they can produce a massive amount of volume." Unfortunately the antiques' were built long before FM was introduced, and can tune only to medium and long wave, where buyers are unlikely to find much drum n'bass.

Gad Sassower: "These radios were made to last"

Boy, 4, saves epileptic mother

A BOY aged 4 who stopped traffic when his mother collapsed in the road with an epileptic fit was praised yesterday. Anthony Severn stood with one hand up to stop cars and the other over his eyes.

His mother, Julie, 30, of Sherwood, Nottingham, suffered the fit as she was taking Anthony and his two-year-old sister, Lindsey, to nursery school. Mrs Severn said: "He was petrified because he thought we would both be run over. Anthony is a real hero because he put his own neck on the line for me. Luckily, the drivers managed to brake."

She said that both Anthony and his sister were used to her condition. Mrs Severn has been epileptic since childhood and has serious fits about once a month.

"He always tries to look after me but this was something different. He tells me it was nothing but he has told his grandma all about it," she said.

"When she picked him up from playschool later that day the first thing he did was ask if I was all right. We are very proud of him. He is a very brave little boy." *(PA News)*

BEST EVER DEAL!

FREE PHILIPS DIGITAL ANSWERPHONE

FREE PHILIPS DIGITAL ANSWERPHONE
FREE CONNECTION WORTH £35
FREE LINE RENTAL UNTIL JAN '98
FREE 6 MONTHS LINE RENTAL IN YEAR 2* WORTH £105.00
FREE NOKIA PHONE WORTH £9.99
FREE UP TO £ WORTH OF CALLS PER MONTH
FREE PORTABLE HANDS FREE KIT WORTH £45
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE & IN CAR ADAPTOR
FREE 3 MONTHS INSURANCE WORTH £11.47
FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY
100 HOUR BATTERY
PER SECOND BILLING

Off peak calls 10.21p (12p inc VAT) PER MIN
Peak rate calls 34.04p (40p inc VAT) PER MIN

NOKIA 1611
- Latest Nokia GSM Phone
- 3.5 hours talk time
- Identifies incoming caller

Ref. TW2612

OPEN: Mon-Thurs 9am-10pm • Fri 9am-9pm • Sat 9am-6pm • Sun 9am-5pm

Have your credit card to hand and Dial-a-Phone now on Freephone
0800 00 00 77
24 Hours

DIAL-A-PHONE

Currys

STARTS TODAY

SALE

PLUS BUY NOW PAY 1999

ON A HUGE RANGE OF TOP BRAND PRODUCTS†

PLUS 4 DAY DISCOUNTS

HURRY! MUST END MONDAY

SAVE £120
BOSCH Full Size Dishwasher Model SGS5302. Was £519.99. Currys Price £399.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £150
CANDY 1200 Spin Automatic Model C1261. Was £289.99. In-store Price £269.99. Voucher Price £249.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £90
GRUNDIG 21" NICAM TV with Fastext Model ST55725. Was £329.99. In-store Price £279.99. Voucher Price £239.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £120
CANDY 9.7 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer Model CM28/10S. Was £279.99. In-store Price £269.99. Voucher Price £249.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £100
ELECTROLUX Upright Cleaner Model POWER SYSTEM 1710. Was £229.99. In-store Price £149.99. Voucher Price £129.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £150
STOVES 50cm Slot-in Gas Cooker Model NEWHOME 502GS. Was £549.99. In-store Price £429.99. Voucher Price £399.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £50
HITACHI Camcorder Model VME330. Was £379.99. In-store Price £349.99. Voucher Price £329.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £80
MATSUI 1.0 cu.ft. Microwave Model 295TC. Was £179.99. In-store Price £109.99. Voucher Price £99.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £100
AIWA CD Mini Hi-Fi Model NSXP9. Was £449.99. In-store Price £399.99. Voucher Price £349.99

SAVE A TOTAL OF £80
PANASONIC NICAM Video with VideoPlus and PDC Model NVHD620B. Was £349.99. In-store Price £329.99. Voucher Price £299.99

FREE PRINTER*
SAVE A TOTAL OF £250
COMPAQ Intel® 233MHz MMX™ Multimedia PC with 33.6k Modem Model 4526. Was £1599. In-store Price £1399. *Model CANON BJC250. Ask for details. Voucher Price £1349

BUY NOW PAY 1999†

Only Currys bring you all this

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT
Many of our current prices are Currys lowest ever. Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.
WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

MASTERCARE Coverplan
†BUY NOW PAY 1999 WITH ALL PRODUCTS OVER £200 WHEN PURCHASED WITH A MASTERCARE COVERPLAN SERVICE AGREEMENT

NEXT DAY DELIVERY & INSTALLATION 7 DAYS A WEEK
On over 800 home appliances when you purchase before 4pm. 48 hour delivery in parts of Northern Ireland and more remote parts of Scotland. You can even choose morning or afternoon delivery, or take it home now. Ask in-store for full details.

EXCLUSIVE MODELS & OFFERS
^For exceptional value, exclusive to DSG Retail Ltd.

INSTANT CREDIT
With Currys Premier Advantage Account you can take advantage of any credit offer in-store. Ask for details.

AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SHOP
Repairs 7 days a week (same day wherever possible).

Currys
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES
All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring 0990 500049 for details of your nearest store. Written quotations from Currys, Dept MK, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

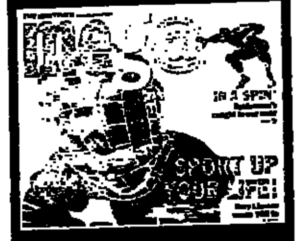
†BUY NOW PAY UP TO 12 MONTHS LATER

APR 29.5%

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

Tomorrow in
THE SATURDAY TIMES

LINUS ROACHE
Hollywood's favourite Brit



The great new comic

Carey urges society to rediscover its faith

Archbishop of Canterbury tells how belief can help to deal with problems, reports **Ruth Gledhill**

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday called for a more caring society, which he said should be achieved by a restoration of Christian values.

Dr Carey, preaching at Canterbury Cathedral, said that his ministry over the past year had taken him to places where there had been human grief and problems that seemed unsurpassable. But faith had supplied hope on such occasions, as in the case of the Ugandan bishop whose wife was killed when she stepped on a landmine, or the Aids victim in New York who faced death with cheerfulness.

Christmas "tells us there will only be peace on Earth and goodwill towards one another when we rightly balance our demands for rights with the recognition of our responsibilities towards our neighbour", he said.

Referring to the plight of the homeless and single mothers, he said that the Church should remember its humble roots. God was "not absent from the poor, the broken-hearted, the refugee and the homeless, not absent from the single mother, the person living on the breadline and the unemployed teenager, but with them as with all of us".

The story of how Jesus was born in a stable was proof that religion was not the preserve of the rich and powerful. "Here is God coming to us not with trumpets, not with the splendour of royal courts nor the trimmings of power, but in weakness — meekness and majesty, the majesty of weakness and the meekness of true divinity."

Referring to Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, he said: "Has life got any point to it? Is everything so random, so pointless, so utterly amoral that when your time comes — phut! That's it." But, he continued, "God is here already. In all the difficulties and joys of life. In the midst of the devastation, horror and misery as well as of renewal, celebration and hope, we find this tiny child waiting for us to respond to Him.

"And it is that belief which can provide the strongest foundation for a caring Church and a caring society."

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, addressing Roman Catholics from around the world at a packed Westminster Cathedral at the main Christmas Day Mass, referred to evocative descriptions of the Incarnation and the Nativity in the Gospels.

He said: "Look at the child lying there on the straw. Forget anything you have heard or read from people wanting to reduce Christmas to be no more than a myth, like a fairy tale, one to preserve because it is traditional or quaint." Worshippers should take time to "kneel at the crib" and profess their faith in the "great truth that God became man and dwelt among us," he said.

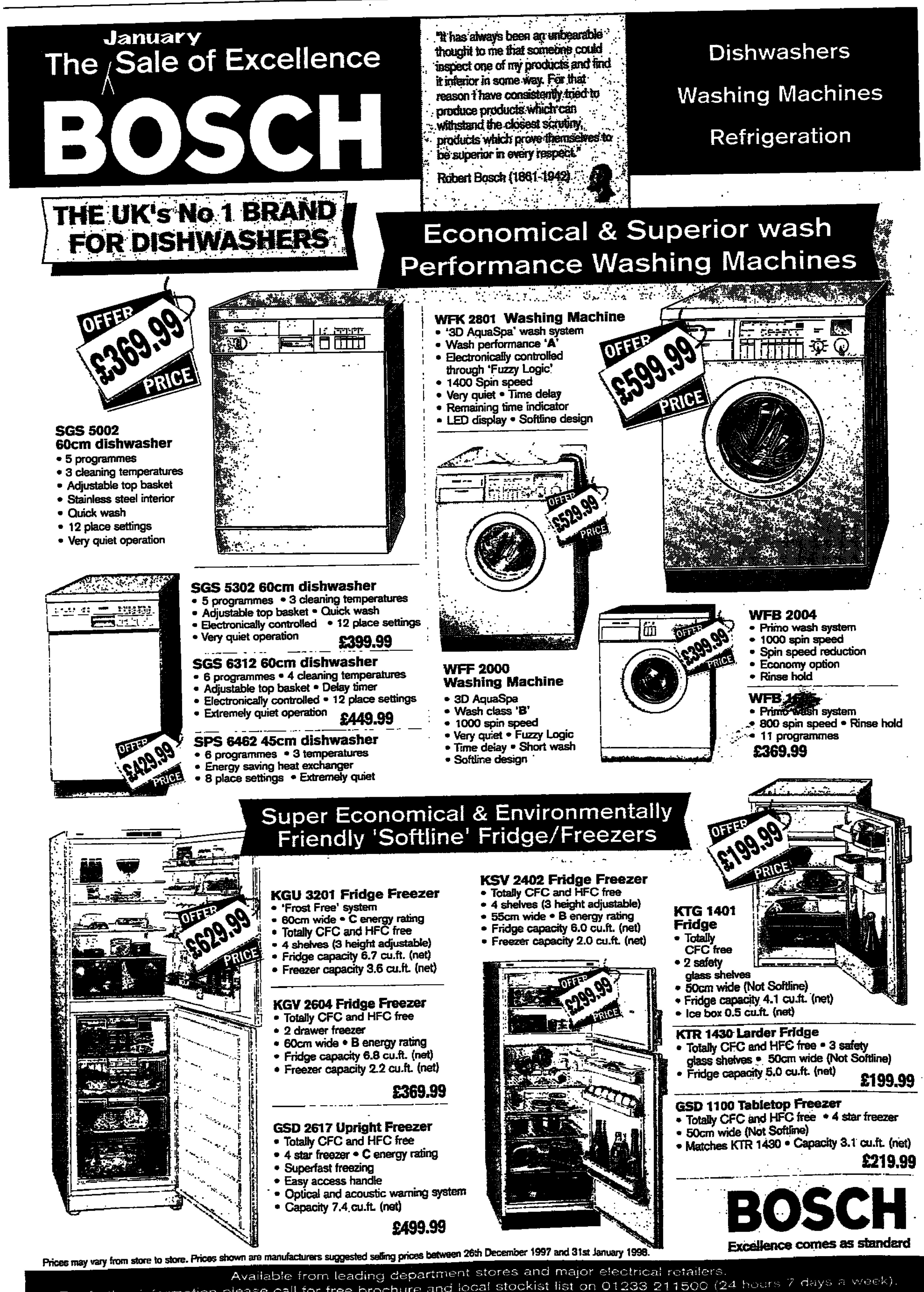
"Kneel at the crib and look at that child lying on the straw in the manger and then those words, glory to God in the highest and peace to persons of goodwill, will begin to dawn on your mind, and you will find yourself wanting to sing them. That is what matters."

The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, preaching at York Minster, recalled the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. "There was a quite spectacular and almost overwhelming sense of shock and grief," he said. There was also a recognition of the Princess's human frailty, coupled with large questions about the meaning and purpose of life.

"How can the Church respond?" he asked. "It will certainly not be by changed structures or improved management, important though these may be, but rather in the contemplation of the awesome mystery which is Christmas."

MARTIN BEDDALL

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, before yesterday's service



January
The Sale of Excellence
BOSCH

"It has always been an unbearable thought to me that someone could inspect one of my products and find it inferior in some way. For that reason I have consistently tried to produce products which can withstand the closest scrutiny, products which prove themselves to be superior in every respect."
Robert Bosch (1861-1942)

Dishwashers
Washing Machines
Refrigeration

THE UK's No 1 BRAND FOR DISHWASHERS

Economical & Superior wash Performance Washing Machines

OFFER £369.99 PRICE

SGS 5002 60cm dishwasher
- 5 programmes
- 3 cleaning temperatures
- Adjustable top basket
- Stainless steel interior
- Quick wash
- 12 place settings
- Very quiet operation

WFK 2801 Washing Machine
- '3D AquaSpa' wash system
- Wash performance 'A'
- Electronically controlled through 'Fuzzy Logic'
- 1400 Spin speed
- Very quiet • Time delay
- Remaining time indicator
- LED display • Softline design

OFFER £599.99 PRICE

OFFER £529.99 PRICE

SGS 5302 60cm dishwasher
- 5 programmes • 3 cleaning temperatures
- Adjustable top basket • Quick wash
- Electronically controlled • 12 place settings
- Very quiet operation

£399.99

SGS 6312 60cm dishwasher
- 6 programmes • 4 cleaning temperatures
- Adjustable top basket • Delay timer
- Electronically controlled • 12 place settings
- Extremely quiet operation

£449.99

OFFER £429.99 PRICE

SPS 6462 45cm dishwasher
- 6 programmes • 3 temperatures
- Energy saving heat exchanger
- 8 place settings • Extremely quiet

WFF 2000 Washing Machine
- 3D AquaSpa
- Wash class 'B'
- 1000 spin speed
- Very quiet • Fuzzy Logic
- Time delay • Short wash
- Softline design

OFFER £399.99 PRICE

WFB 2004
- Primo wash system
- 1000 spin speed
- Spin speed reduction
- Economy option
- Rinse hold

WFB 16[illegible]
- Primo wash system
- 800 spin speed • Rinse hold
- 11 programmes

£369.99

Super Economical & Environmentally Friendly 'Softline' Fridge/Freezers

OFFER £629.99 PRICE

KGU 3201 Fridge Freezer
- 'Frost Free' system
- 60cm wide • C energy rating
- Totally CFC and HFC free
- 4 shelves (3 height adjustable)
- Fridge capacity 6.7 cu.ft. (net)
- Freezer capacity 3.6 cu.ft. (net)

KGV 2604 Fridge Freezer
- Totally CFC and HFC free
- 2 drawer freezer
- 60cm wide • B energy rating
- Fridge capacity 6.8 cu.ft. (net)
- Freezer capacity 2.2 cu.ft. (net)

£369.99

GSD 2617 Upright Freezer
- Totally CFC and HFC free
- 4 star freezer • C energy rating
- Superfast freezing
- Easy access handle
- Optical and acoustic warning system
- Capacity 7.4 cu.ft. (net)

£499.99

KSV 2402 Fridge Freezer
- Totally CFC and HFC free
- 4 shelves (3 height adjustable)
- 55cm wide • B energy rating
- Fridge capacity 6.0 cu.ft. (net)
- Freezer capacity 2.0 cu.ft. (net)

OFFER £299.99 PRICE

OFFER £199.99 PRICE

KTG 1401 Fridge
- Totally CFC free
- 2 safety glass shelves
- 50cm wide (Not Softline)
- Fridge capacity 4.1 cu.ft. (net)
- Ice box 0.5 cu.ft. (net)

KTR 1430 Larder Fridge
- Totally CFC and HFC free • 3 safety glass shelves • 50cm wide (Not Softline)
- Fridge capacity 5.0 cu.ft. (net)

£199.99

GSD 1100 Tabletop Freezer
- Totally CFC and HFC free • 4 star freezer
- 50cm wide (Not Softline)
- Matches KTR 1430 • Capacity 3.1 cu.ft. (net)

£219.99

BOSCH
Excellence comes as standard

Prices may vary from store to store. Prices shown are manufacturers suggested selling prices between 26th December 1997 and 31st January 1998.

Available from leading department stores and major electrical retailers.
For further information please call for free brochure and local stockist list on 01233 211500 (24 hours 7 days a week).
Robert Bosch Domestic Appliances, Grand Union House, Old Wolverton Road, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5PT.

Pope calls for well-off to aid 'new poor'

From John Phillips in Rome

THE Pope in his Christmas *urbi et orbi* (to the City and the World) message called yesterday for the well-off to help "the ever-growing multitude of the new poor", including the homeless and unemployed and young victims of paedophilia and drugs.

He prefaced his greetings, delivered in 56 languages, by announcing that he will visit next week the victims of the earthquake in the central Italian regions of Umbria and the Marche.

Speaking in a strong voice from the central loggia of St Peter's Basilica, the 77-year-old took up his by-now recurrent theme of the ills of unbridled capitalism, saying he found "distressing ... the tense silence of men and women without work and without shelter, infants and children injured and violated, adolescents enlisted in the wars of adults and young victims of drugs or attracted by deceptive myths".

The pontiff also decried the plight of refugees, "the sufferings of peoples fleeing to the mountains of their own land or seeking a safe haven on the coasts of neighbouring countries, in order to pursue the faint hope of a less precarious and more secure existence".

He praised "those who give generously to breaking down barriers of fear and aggression, promoting understanding between peoples of different origins, colour and religious creeds".

The pontiff said he hoped his greeting would reach with particular warmth "the populations of Umbria and the Marche, stricken recently by the earthquake and still now in situations of suffering and discomfort".

"I am near to you in a special way in these days, thinking how the Son of God, when He was born at Bethlehem, did not find a place in a house, but in a stable and was placed in a manger."

The Pope said he would visit the stricken areas on January 3. The Vatican spokesman said John Paul II would stop at the village of Annifo in the Apennines, at the epicentre of the October quake, where only seven houses remain habitable. The village is in the worst hit diocese, Foligno. At Assisi the Pope will pray at the tomb of St Francis. In spite of such disasters, the Pope recalled that "all are called to share in the joy of Christmas ... a day of extraordinary gladness". He noted that "this straying humanity of ours" is "journeying towards the third millennium". The Pope considers that ushering in the third Christian millennium is now the main objective of his pontificate, to be marked by the special jubilee he has called in Rome. In his Christmas Eve homily, John Paul said his Christmas wish was for peace for humanity.

Some Vatican watchers saw part of his homily as an olive branch for the Jews and Israel, which the Pope hopes will allow him to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2000.

The Pontiff referred to the Jews as "the chosen people" selected "to bring to the world the Messiah, the Saviour and Redeemer of all humanity".

> ‘The tense silence of people without jobs causes distress’

School assembly under threat

By Ruth Gledhill

THE traditional school assembly is in danger as pressure grows to end the legal requirement for daily worship for pupils.

The Government will face renewed pressure in the spring to end present rulings after a survey disclosed strong support from teachers.

Although churches and non-Christian groups are divided on the issue, the consultation showed strong backing for change among professional staff.

According to the *Church Times*, the Government has pledged to consider the recommendations of the consultation, which was sponsored by bodies including the religious education council and the inter-faith network.

Any change is likely to be strongly opposed by the churches, although the Methodists supported change, and the federal council of the Free Church also offered "reluctant support".

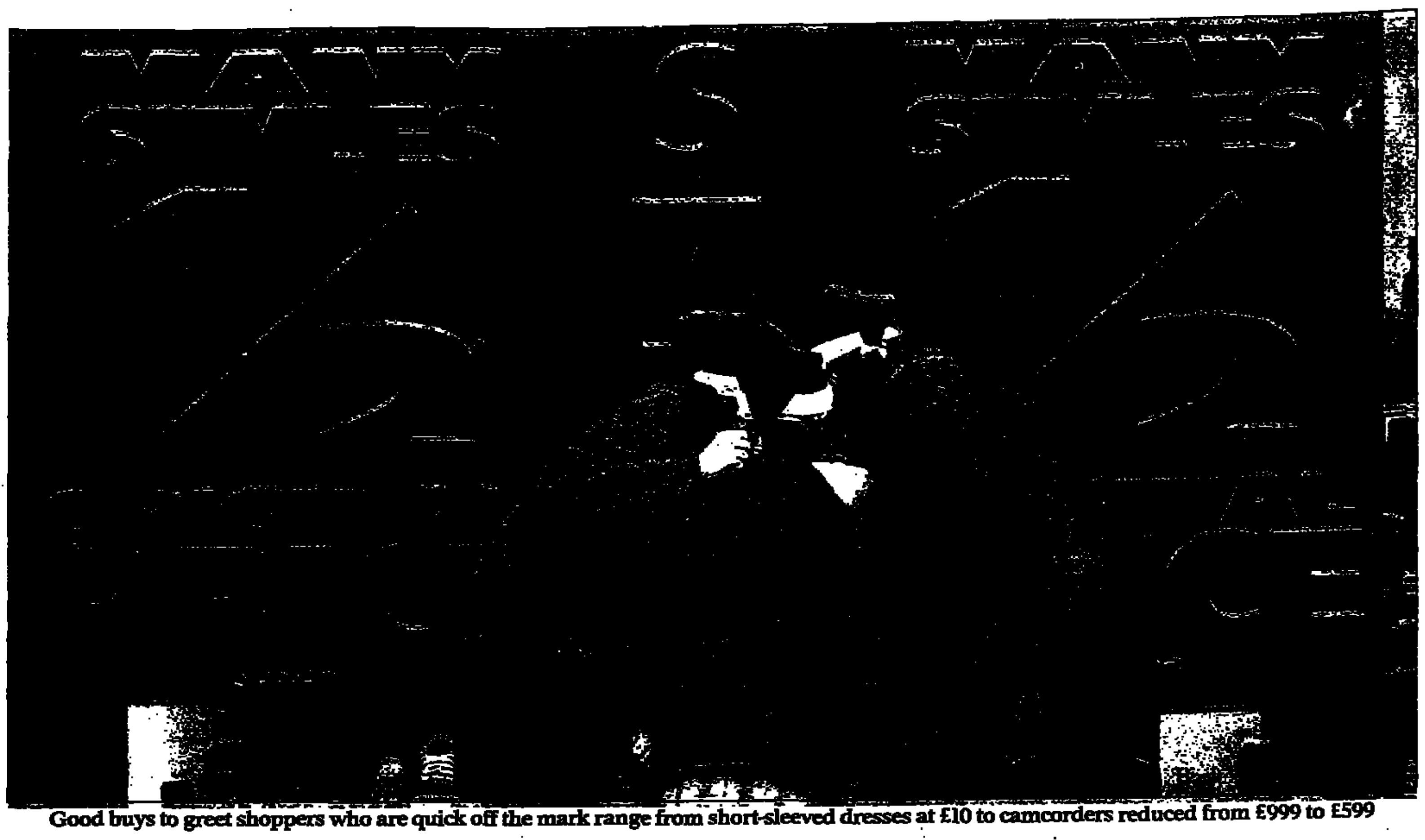
The Roman Catholic Church and a majority of the Evangelical Alliance are strongly in favour of collective worship. The Church of England declined to support or oppose it.

Jewish people and Muslims indicated that they wanted a change in the rules to allow other faith groups to hold their own acts of worship as well.

A seminar on the issue will be held in London next February, organised by Liz Paver, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, who is a member of the board of education. She believes that the requirement to hold daily worship is putting an unreasonable burden on head teachers.

Sales: where they are on, and what is coming off

Lisa Grainger provides counter-intelligence for shoppers who want to spy out the best bargains



Good buys to greet shoppers who are quick off the mark range from short-sleeved dresses at £10 to camcorders reduced from £999 to £599

ON TODAY

☐ **Aquascutum**
100 Regent Street, W1 (0800 282922). Until Jan 31.
Up to 50 per cent off selected lines. Womenswear: silk blouses were £175, now £95; cashmere coats from £1,295 to £795; wool jackets were £350, sale £175; short raincoats were £350, now £175; quilted silk jackets from £225 to £125; Menswear: corduroy trousers were £125, now £85; cotton business shirts were £59, sale £39; cashmere knitwear was £225, sale £155; leisure shirts from £79 to £55; Menswear: double-breasted navy suit was £279, now £199. Women's wear: co-ordinating trousers were £89.50, sale £44.75; tan/stone/navy mock chamois shirts were £99, now £49.50; navy double-breasted jacket was £259, sale price £129.50.

☐ **Armando Pollini**
35 Brook Street, W1 (0171-629 7606). Until end Jan.
From 30 to 40 per cent reductions; leather knee-length boots from £188 to £90.

☐ **Bertie**
36 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-493 5033) and branches; inquiries (0171-380 3800).
Many items at half price; old stock items from £10 to £20.

☐ **Country Casuals**
1-5 Poland Street, W1 (0171-287 5181) and branches (0121-212 2405).
Up to 50 per cent reduction on casual wear, chunky knitwear and most accessories.

☐ **Diesel**
55 Argyle Street, WC1 (0171-833 2255).
Up to 5 per cent reduction on selected items.

☐ **Episode**
172 Regent Street, W1 (0171-439 3561) and branches (0171-589 4279).
Black velvet trouser suit, jacket was £219, now £153; trousers were £129, sale £90.

☐ **Hennes**
261-271 Regent Street, W1 (0171-495 4003) and branches, inquiries 0171-255 2031.
Fifty per cent reduction on all sale stock. Black lace cardigan from £29.99 to £14.99; black velvet shirt from £19.99 to £9.99.

☐ **Jaeger**
200-206 Regent Street, W1 (0171-200 4000); 100 stores nationwide, general inquiries (0171-200 4211).
Discounts 20-50 per cent, eg, 52 per cent off black beaded evening dress, 53 per cent off Cashmere sleeveless pullover.

☐ **Kingshill Mail Order**
For Kingshill British Designer Collections catalogue and Diffusion catalogue, call 01494 890555.
25 per cent off all designer styles.

☐ **Miss Selfridge**
All branches 0181-910 1359 or 0171-938 4182.
Short-sleeved dresses were £25, now £10; long coats with fur collar were £125, sale £65; chenille V-necks were £20, now £10.

☐ **Nicole Farhi**
158 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8368); 193 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 0877); 12 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-497 8713); 25-26 St Christopher's Place, W1 (0171-486 3416); 27 Hampstead High Street, NW3 (0171-435 0866). Until mid-Jan.
Up to 30 per cent reductions on selected items.

☐ **Osh Kosh B'Gosh**
17 King's Road, SW3 (0171-730 1341).
Up to 50 per cent off selected merchandise.

☐ **Ravel**
184-188 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-436 3126) and branches (0171-631 0224).
No details available.

☐ **River Island**
Branches nationwide (0181-998 8822).
Black bootleg trousers were £24.99, now £12.99; chocolate pinstripe jacket was £49.99, sale £29.99.

☐ **Russell & Bromley**
24-25 New Bond Street, London W1; 41 branches (0171-629 6903).
Discounts 30-50 per cent.

☐ **Valentino**
174 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 5855); Miss Valentino, 160 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-493 2698). Until mid-Jan.
Up to 60 per cent off selected items.

☐ **Whistles**
12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-487 4484).
20-50 per cent off selected items.

☐ **Jane Churchill**
151 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-730 9847) until Jan 15; Liberty, Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 1234); 13 Fitzroy Street, Cambridge (01223 323211); check branches for dates.
Up to 30 per cent reduction on selected items.

STARTING TOMORROW

☐ **Austin Reed**
Branches nationwide (0800 585479).

☐ **Benetton**
Regent Street megastore sale. For branches' dates, 0171-647 4200.
Up to 50 per cent reductions.

☐ **Betty Jackson**
311 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-589 7884).
All reductions 30 per cent: eg, sheepskin coat was £780, now £546; marino sweaters were £143, sale £100; suede trousers were £429, now £300.

☐ **Bhs**
252-258 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-262 3288); 139 branches.
Up to 30 per cent off selected items across all departments.

☐ **Burberry**
18-22 Haymarket, SW1; 165 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 4060).
Selected items up to 50 per cent off, eg, women's trenchcoats were £575, sale £375; cashmere coats were £895, now £595; men's checked shirts £85, now £45; blazers were £325, sale £195.

☐ **Burton**
Branches nationwide (0171-291-2511).
Many lines up to a third off.

☐ **C&A**
Branches nationwide (0171-629 1244).
Up to 50 per cent off clothes for all the family.

☐ **Debenhams**
334-348 Oxford Street, W1, and branches (0171-580 3000).
Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store.

☐ **Denners**
High Street, Yeovil, Somerset (01935 444444). Until Jan 24.
Up to 50 per cent off men's and women's fashions and household goods.

☐ **Donna Karan**
19 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 3100).
Discounts off selected items.

☐ **DKNY**
27 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8089).
20-70 per cent off autumn/winter collection.

☐ **Emporio Armani**
191 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-823 8818); 57-59 Long Acre, WC2 (0171-917 6882); 112a New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 8080); Manchester (0161-839 8789); Glasgow (0141-552 2277).
Reductions of 30 and 50 per cent.

☐ **Fenwick**
New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9161) and branches.
Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store and extra 10 per cent off sale prices 9.30am-1pm today. Women's wear: Nicole Farhi swing coats with fake fur collar in wool/cashmere reduced from £429 to £299; Christian Lacroix plain or print jeans from £75 to £49.

☐ **French Connection**
249 Regent Street, W1, and branches (0171-580 2507).
Up to 30 per cent off selected items.

☐ **Giorgio Armani**
37 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 6232).
Reductions of 30 and 50 per cent.

☐ **Harvey Nichols**
109-125 Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5000). Until Jan 11.
Up to 50 per cent off many items. During first four days additional 10 per cent discount for Harvey Nichols account holders. Tocca embroidered dress was £295, sale price £177; Donna Karan Signature charcoal stripe suit from £1,040 to £520; Galliano ruffle dress with rose was £1,025, now £512.50; CK cashmere coat was £2,340, sale £1,170. Menswear: selected Kenzo shirts were £70, sale £38; CK leather jacket from £590 to £354; Giorgio Armani wool suit was £615, now £399; Dolce & Gabbana leather bag from £435 to £217.50; Mulberry wallpaper was £27.50 per roll, sale £7; Designers' Guild duvet set was £65, now £45.

☐ **Hoopers**
Cheltenham (01242 527505); Chichester (01243 533103); Torquay (01803 212754); Tunbridge Wells (01892 530222); Hoopers for Men, Tunbridge Wells (01892 529223) and Wilmslow (01625 525381); Bradford (01274 491311); Harrogate (01423 504091). For details, call free 0800 318216.
Up to 50 per cent off co-ordinated separates, including Moschino, Mulberry, Olsen, Gerry Weber; contemporary fashions eg, Marella, Fink, Jean-Paul; and a selection of evening wear.

☐ **House of Fraser**
Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 5432); Dickins & Jones, Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 7070); D.H. Evans, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 8800) and stores nationwide (0171-963 2236).
Menswear: up to 30 per cent off selected sportswear and 20 per cent off selected coats; £10 off *Christian Dior* dress shirts. Women's wear: up to 50 per cent off selected items. Homewear: 20-50 per cent off selected bed linen and goosedown & feather pillows; 50 per cent off selected towels; up to 50 per cent off selected cookware items. Electrical: Toshiba 21in Nicam colour television was £379.99, sale £299.99; Hoover A1110 autowasher was £399.99, now £329.99; Kenwood mini hi-fi was £329.99, sale price £229.99.

☐ **Joseph**
26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 5470); 23 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 3713); 28 Brook Street, W1 (0171-629 6077); 124 Draycott Avenue, SW3 (0171-225 0364); 77 Fulham Road, SW3, and general inquiries 0171-823 9500.
Reductions starting at 30 per cent on selected items, including coats, trousers and leatherwear.

☐ **Koh Samui**
65 Monmouth Street, WC2. (0171-240 4280).
Up to 60 per cent off designer clothes.

☐ **Kookai**
123 Kensington High Street, W8; 25 branches nationwide, inquiries 0171-937 4411.
No further details available.

☐ **Liberty**
214-220 Regent Street, W1, and branches (0171-734 1234). Until Jan 4.
Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store. Gilt-framed wall mirrors were £399, now £199; Jacquard cotton double bedspreads were £110, sale £55; white goosedown single duvet was £230, now £115; satin stripe bedlinen for double bed was £110, now £55; Shakespeare sofa in brick and black chenille was £3,195, now £1,595; Royal Worcester bone china Garrick seconds (eg, dinner plate was £12.95, now £6.45). Five-piece set of *Bonanza* saucepans were £170, sale price £99; Iranian Seraband carpet was £1,500, now £750. Women's wear: 50 per cent off Nicole Farhi, Ralph Lauren, John Galliano; Martin Kidman velvet jeans were £85, sale £42.50; Liberty long velvet devoré scarves were £145, now £72.50; 50 per cent off Italian leather handbags (eg, black shoulder bag was £110, now £55). Menswear: Ralph Lauren polo shirts were £60, now £35; casual shirts were £90, sale £49; Alan Paine cashmere crew neck was £215, now £129; Liberty foulard ties were £35, sale £17.50; Madder silk ties were £39.50, now £19.50.

☐ **Lillywhites**
24-36 Regent Street, SW1 (0171-915 4000). Eight branches nationwide.
Discounts on many lines at 25-50 per cent off.

☐ **Marks & Spencer**
Marble Arch, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-935 7954); 286 branches, inquiries 0171-935 4422.
End-of-season clearance.

☐ **Maxmara**
32 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 7941); 153 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4748).
Up to 20 per cent off selected items.

☐ **Monsoon**
Branches nationwide (0171-313 3000).
Up to 50 per cent off. Aster cardigan was £85, now £60; Geisha silk jacket was £199, sale £135; short strappy Soraya dress was £180, now £80; velvet evening coat was £175, sale £125. Accessorize shops are reducing selected items by 50 per cent, eg, suede gloves were £14.99, now £9.99; silver and amber rings were £19.99, sale £14.99.

☐ **Mulberry**
41-42 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4323); 185 Brompton Road, SW1 (0171-225 0313); York (01904 611055).
Up to 50 per cent off selected items, eg, silk taffeta blouse was £215, now £139; full-length velvet opera coat was £695, sale £459. Accessories: small Kelby bag was £345, sale £229. Home collection: Paisley tartan throw was £159, now £79.50; selected wallpapers, were £25 per roll, now £7.

☐ **Next**
Three hundred branches. Inquiries 0116-284 9424.
Up to 50 per cent off most items. Women's wear: Camel single-breasted stretch jacket was £99, now £44.99; stretch bootleg trousers were £44.99, sale £19.99. Menswear: navy wool pinstripe jacket was £105, now £49.99. Reductions on children's wear and interiors.

☐ **Nougat**
Nougat at Fenwicks, Brent Cross (0181-202 8200); Jill Black, Manchester (0161-834 5160).

☐ **Oasis**
292 Regent Street, W1, and branches (0171-452 1000).
Up to 50 per cent off selected items and bigger mark-downs from Dec 29. Tiger print skirts were £39.99, now £24.99; marble print jackets were £89.99, sale £49.99; crossover sequined dress was £59.99, now £39.99; up to 50 per cent off selected jewellery and accessories.

☐ **Patrick Cox**
8 Symons Street, SW3 (0171-730 6504). Patrick Cox Wannabe, 129 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-730 8886).
Up to 40 per cent off men's shoes and 30 per cent off women's; up to 50 per cent off other selected items.

Penhaligon's
20a Brook Street, W1 (0171-493 0002), 16 Burlington Arcade, W1 (0171-629 1416), 41 Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-836 2150), until mid-Jan; 8 Royal Exchange, EC3 (0171-283 0711), starts Dec 30.
Lords cologne spray from £27 to £15; Violetta bath essence was £21, now £15; Venetian cameo aqua and pearl earrings from £350 to £120; guilded enamel egg bottle was £125, sale £30.

☐ **Prada**
43-45 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 0008).
Up to 30 per cent off autumn/winter collections.

☐ **Red or Dead**
38 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 1649); 33 Neal Street, WC2.
Up to 40 per cent off all stock. Knee-high boots from £99 to £69; leather shoes from £75 to £49.

☐ **Reiss**
114 King's Road, SW3; 116 Long Acre, WC2; 245 Regent Street, W1; and branches in Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow (0171-225 4900).
No further details available.

☐ **The Scotch House**
2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, SW1; 84-86 Regent Street, W1; 39-41 Princes Street, Edinburgh (0171-581 2151).
Up to 40 per cent off a wide selection.

☐ **Selfridges**
Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 1234).
Free spa treatments. Up to 50 per cent off selected items including women's fashion, eg, Ralph Lauren, Adrienne Vittadini and Marella Sport. Up to 25 per cent off selected computers and electronic goods — eg, Sharp camcorder was £999.99, sale £599.99; Electrolux upright vacuum cleaner was £150, now £99. Up to 50 per cent off selected ranges of china and glasswear. Special reductions: Katherine Hamnett velvet wrap coat was £539, sale price £99; Christopher Farr Kilm rug from £3,000 to £500.

☐ **Simpson Piccadilly**
203 Piccadilly, W1, inquiries (0171-734 2002). Until Jan 31.
£500 free draw during sales. Up to 50 per cent off a wide selection. Daks quilted jackets for women were £329, now £164.50; Domina jersey dresses were £179, sale £125. Menswear: Daks suits from £299 to £149.; *Simpson* overcoats were £350, now £275.

☐ Information correct at time of going to press. Dates and reductions may *change at short notice. Please check with specific shops before making a special trip.*

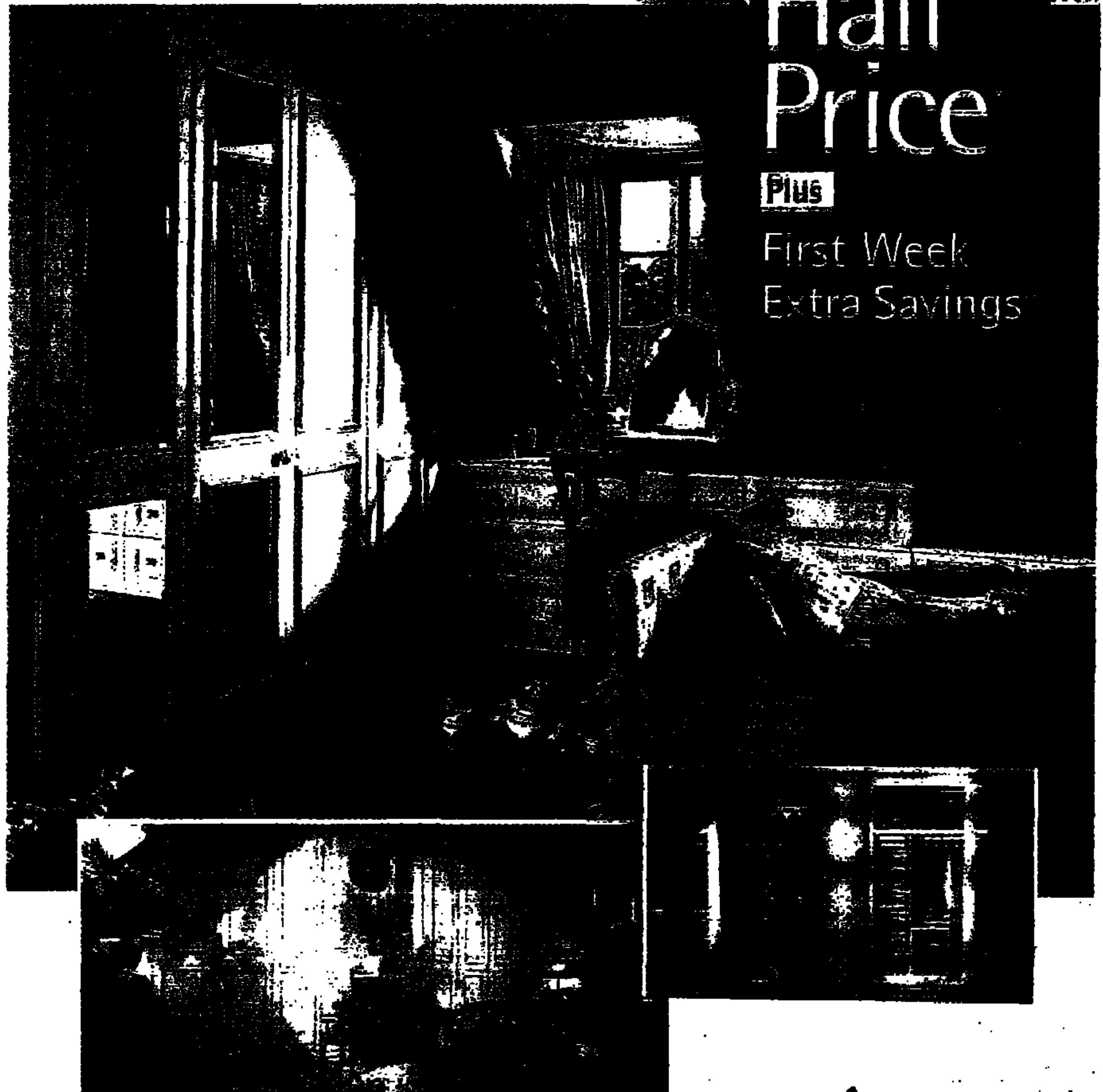
☐ *Additional research by Deborah King.*

Sales guide tomorrow in *Times Weekend*

With so many beautiful bedrooms on offer, it's small wonder so many people make the Sharps January Sale their first port of call. But what really persuades them to buy? First, all 84 bedroom styles are available at half price with valuable extra savings during the first week. Next, consider Sharps experience in creating order and space in any shape or size of room and their ability to custom-craft each bedroom to individual needs. Then add a 5 year guarantee for good measure. See the inspirational choice at your nearest Sharps showroom. With 215 nationwide, you're never far from the UK's No.1 fitted bedroom specialists.

The Sharps January Sale

84 Bedroom styles Half Price Plus First Week Extra Savings



SHARPS Bedrooms

visit your local showroom or call free on 0800 789 789

*Reductions taken from current list price. Minimum list price £1500. **Applies to orders of £1500 or above.

SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

[illegible]

Woody and Soon-Yi honeymoon in Paris

A secret Venice wedding — latest twist to a saga aired in a US courtroom — leaves Mia Farrow as mother-in-law to her former lover, writes Tunku Varadarajan

THE film director Woody Allen, whose on-screen neuroses are mirrored often in his *overwrought personal life*, has married Soon-Yi Previn, the adopted daughter of his former lover, the actress Mia Farrow.

Ms Farrow, who has described the couple's relationship as sick and perverted, is unlikely to be amused by a turn of events that casts her in the awkward role of Mr Allen's mother-in-law.

Mr Allen, 62, married Ms Previn, 27, at a private ceremony in Venice, a city he loves as much as his native New York. The ceremony was conducted by Massimo Cacciari, the city's extrovert Mayor, at the Palazzo Cavalli, near the Rialto bridge on Venice's Grand Canal. He gave them a glass vase as a wedding gift — made specially in nearby Burano and depicting the city's La Fenice opera house, for whose restoration Mr Allen has been raising funds.

Beaming from ear to ear, Signor Cacciari said: "The wedding had been planned a while ago, and although we Italians are not good at keeping secrets, we were able to keep this one secret till the end."

Neither Mr Allen nor Ms Previn would speak to the *press*, although Leslee Dart, the former's spokeswoman, did release a statement in which she said: "Six years ago, Woody and Soon-Yi decided *that one* day they would come back to Venice and get married. That city is very meaningful to them. *Over the past* years, they have weathered a lot together, and have always been very much in love."

Mr Allen's spokeswoman *also said that he did not ask* Ms Previn to sign a prenuptial agreement — prompting New York's famed divorce lawyer, Raoul Felder, to say: "*Woody needs a psychiatrist* more than an attorney."

The couple are reported to have arrived in Venice on Monday, where they stayed at the elegant Hotel Gritti. Staff there disclose that they took the hotel's best suite, a first-*floor spread with a sumptuous* view of the Grand Canal. Fittingly, the rooms had been featured by Mr Allen in his film *Everyone Says I Love You*, made last year.

The wedding took place on Tuesday evening, and was attended by Lettie Aronson, Mr Allen's sister, and a hand*ful of very close friends. After* exchanging their vows in Italian, the couple resorted to the oldest trick in the Venetian book — the gondola.

While the Mayor's men ensured that the paparazzi were kept at bay, they spent an hour on the water. Onlookers say that the two were very tactile, and that the gondolier serenaded them with a series of mellifluous arias.

They left for Paris the next day, where they are staying at the Ritz before returning to New York in the new year. Mr Allen is booked to play the saxophone at the city's Café Carlyle on January 5. They will continue to live in their Fifth Avenue penthouse, the *home which they have shared* for two years.

The relationship between Mr Allen and Ms Previn is at least six years old. When news *of the liaison* broke, a considerable furore erupted. Ms Previn, born in South Korea, was adopted by Ms Farrow and André Previn, the conductor and pianist, when eight years old, and Mr Allen had acted as a surrogate father to her during his relationship with Ms Farrow.

In 1992, however, Ms Farrow discovered that the two were romantically involved, finding a portfolio of nude photographs of Ms Previn at *Mr Allen's Manhattan* apartment.

The aftermath is best described as messy. Ms Farrow is reported to have broken a chair over her daughter's head and locked her in a closet. Mr Allen lost rights to his two children, Satchel and Dylan, both of whom live with Ms Farrow.

MICHEL EULER / AP

Woody Allen and his bride in Paris, where they are staying until the new year

Hair pill heads for sale in Britain

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

MAKERS of the new prescription pill approved to fight male baldness in America are hoping to make it available soon in Britain.

The British subsidiary of Merck and Co of Pennsylvania has applied for a licence to the Medical Control Agency in London. A total of 14 men in *Leeds, Bradford and* Sheffield took part in testing along with nearly 2,000 in America that led to approval of the pill by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The drug, Propecia, has to be taken daily. In the tests, it increased hair growth in 48 per cent of balding men after one *year, with 18 per cent* enjoying a moderate or even dense growth, according to an independent panel of dermatologists. The pills will cost up *to $50 (£30) a month.*

The drug is not recommended for women because it causes birth defects. In 2 per cent of men it can cause loss of *sex drive and impotence*, effects that disappear if they stop taking the drug.

Clinton wipes slate clean for butter thief

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IT *WAS* only a stroke of the pen for President Clinton, but for Ray Weaver, 74, it removed the stain of the "biggest failure of my life".

Fifty years ago, Mr Weaver pleaded guilty at his US Navy court martial to stealing 4lb of butter. He was reduced one level in rank from chief radioman to radioman first class.

This year, Mr Clinton signed an executive grant of clemency, a pardon that erased the only blemish Mr Weaver ever incurred.

Yesterday, as his 11 grandchildren unwrapped their gifts, Mr Weaver was ecstatic: "It's a marvellous feeling after *the 50 years I've kept this* bottled up. The pardon is the biggest thing in my life."

Now retired and living in St Petersburg, Florida, Mr *Weaver applied for the pardon* more than a year ago. Since then, he said, he had worried that Mr Clinton would be too busy with his trip to Bosnia to *grant a pardon.*

Mr Weaver admitted that the chief cook at his base twice gave him 2lb of butter from supplies that he took home to his wife.

He served another 16 years in the Navy, but the number of chief radiomen was reduced and he never recovered his former rank.

Mr Weaver was one of 21 Americans to receive Christmas pardons for long-ago federal offences ranging from bank *robbery to fraud* and operating a bootleg still. All now lead lives beyond reproach but felt the need to seek presidential redemption.

Among them was Ralph *Limbaugh*, 66, who, with a conviction for stealing a case of sparking plugs on his record, has been unable to own a gun for more than 20 years. *A life member of the* National Rifle Association, he can now take up hunting again.

In New York, Republican *Governor George Pataki* commuted long terms for three first-time offenders, all model prisoners, who had fallen victim to the state's drug-sentencing codes. *They had* received mandatory terms of 15 years to life for low-level crimes.

Such unbending laws are *part of an increasing national* problem that has clogged America's jails with non-violent drug offenders who would be better off receiving treat*ment for addiction or perform*ing community work.

The best-known beneficiary yesterday was Angela Thompson, who was sentenced in 1989 *at the age of 17* for trying to sell 2oz of cocaine to an undercover police officer at the direction of her uncle, a Harlem drug dealer who was also *her legal guardian.*

The trial judge had tried to pass a lesser sentence but was overruled by the state appeal court. "This case is bringing me to tears," the judge wrote in protest.

Miss Thompson, who has served eight *years and three months*, passed high school *and college courses in prison* and has been supervising a centre where children visit their imprisoned mothers. She was not eligible for parole *until September 2004.*

Food flights save Afghan victims

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of Shia Muslims surrounded by Sunni forces in central Afghanistan are being saved from *starvation by emergency food* deliveries from World Food Programme aircraft.

Up to 2,500 tonnes of food are being delivered so the *Shias can survive the winter*. They are blockaded by Taleban militiamen who have stopped food lorries getting into the Bamian region — one of the few they have *failed* to capture. The first relief aircraft, flying out of the Pakistani border city of Peshawar, carried a storage shelter and equipment for handling food.

The World Food Programme *announced*: "The Taleban blockade on the south and civil strife in the north have meant that very little food has been able to enter or leave the area."

With shortages so acute, wheat prices are beyond the pockets of all but a few. Trading across the region's borders has halted, driving people deeper into poverty. Taleban has been refusing to let food be delivered on the ground that it would fall into the hands of opposition troops. The prospect of mass civilian starvation finally persuaded them to relent.

*The World Food Pro*gramme has been trying to get food in since May, but with the collapse of security all stocks were looted on the road. *Bamian province*, controlled by the Hezb-i-Wahadat faction, is incapable of producing enough food. Relief supplies will be distributed to 160,000 people, most *malnourished* and desperate.

The United Nations Security Council has deplored the unwillingness of warring groups to lay down arms and fears the country is in danger *of disintegrating. The UN also* expressed concern about mass killings, details of which were revealed after officials found graves for up to 2,000 fighters, mostly Taleban.

They were apparently butchered in an around Mazar-i-Sharif, scene of fighting in May last year.

The UN's warning *reflects* the view of many Afghan analysts that a formal partition is the only viable solution for the country.

COMET Sale STARTS 10AM TODAY

You can't buy better

PLUS INTEREST FREE OPTION* ON A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS IN STORE

Whirlpool 9.8 CU.FT GROSS FRIDGE FREEZER
● 5.7 cu.ft gross fridge capacity
● 4.1 cu.ft gross freezer capacity
● Fast freeze facility ● Automatic fridge defrost
● 2 salad crispers ● 3 shelves
Model ART781, was £399.99 sale £249.99
3 DAYS ONLY £229.99 SAVE £170
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

indesit WASHING MACHINE
● 900 spin speed ● 11lb wash load
● 8 programme combinations
● Gentle woollens programme ● Hot and cold fill
Model WG924, was £299.99 previously £319.99 sale £229.99
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
3 DAYS ONLY £219.99 SAVE £100
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE
900 SPIN SPEED

HOOVER UPRIGHT CLEANER
OUR LOWEST PRICED UPRIGHT
● 900 watts power
● Edge-to-edge vacuuming, cleans right up to the wall
● Stair cleaning hose ● On-board tools
● Floor surface adjuster – adapts to carpets or floors
Model U2090, was £89.99 previously £139.99 sale £79.99
3 DAYS ONLY £74.99 SAVE £65
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

PLUS '98' CLEAROUT AN EXTRA 25% OFF
To make way for new ranges we are clearing a wide range of last year's lines now available with an extra 25% off in-store marked prices with this voucher. These products may be ex-display, cosmetically damaged or previously sold and returned. Look for this symbol in store.

29.9% APR
*Example – Buy Now Pay 6 months later. Cash price £189.93. Deposit 10% = £19. No further payments for up to 6 months after the purchase date. Balance £170.93 is payable in full within the 6 calendar month period 0% APR. Total amount payable = cash price or 36 monthly payments of £7.74 commencing 6 months after purchase date. APR 29.9%. Total amount payable = £297.84.

LAUNDRY UP TO 72 PRODUCTS TO CHOOSE FROM
Hotpoint 1100 SPIN AQUARIUS WASHING MACHINE
● 500-1100 spin speed
● 12lb wash load
● Quick wash
● Economy wash
● Aquarius Wash System Plus
Model WM63, was £499.99
10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SALE £399.99 SAVE £100
ZANUSSI 11LB CONDENSER TUMBLE DRYER
11lb drying load capacity/2 drying temperatures
Reverse tumble action
Condenser drying – requires no venting
Model TC470, was £409.99
SALE £279.99 SAVE £130

REFRIGERATION UP TO 100 PRODUCTS TO CHOOSE FROM
DAEWOO 4.9 GROSS CU.FT FRIDGE WITH ICE BOX
● 4.9 cu.ft gross capacity
● Adjustable thermostat
● 2 shelves, Model FR142
was £159.99 sale £109.99
3 DAYS ONLY £99.99 SAVE £60
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE
Hotpoint 12.0 GROSS CU.FT FROST-FREE FRIDGE FREEZER
7.2 cu.ft gross fridge capacity/4.8 cu.ft gross freezer capacity
'Zoned cooling' so food is at correct temperature, Model 8596
POLAR 'MISTRAL', was £729.99
COLOUR OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT £649.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SALE £599.99 SAVE £130

COOKERS UP TO 120 TO CHOOSE FROM
ALSO AVAILABLE IN BLUE
Belling ELECTRIC COOKER
● 600mm width
● Double oven ● Ceramic hob
● Halogen zone ● Glass door
● Easy clean liners
Model FORMAT 633 GREEN
was £789.99 previously £949.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SALE £769.99 SAVE £180
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
DeLonghi ELECTRIC BUILT-IN OVEN
Glass door/2 oven shelves
Matching hobs available
Model EOS160WHITE
was £239.99
ALSO AVAILABLE IN BROWN
SALE £139.99 SAVE £100
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
LEISURE GAS COOKER
550mm width/Separate grill
Easy clean liners
Handy rack
Model 55 PORTHOLE NL GREEN
was £499.99 previously £599.99
SALE £479.99 SAVE £120
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

MICROWAVES UP TO 40 TO CHOOSE FROM
PROline BLUE TOUCH CONTROL MICROWAVE
● 750 watts IEC
● 0.6 cu.ft capacity
● 10 power levels
Model ST22 BLUE
was £89.99 previously £94.99, £99.99 sale £84.99
ALSO AVAILABLE IN WHITE
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
3 DAYS ONLY £79.99 SAVE £20
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE
KENWOOD MICROWAVE
750 watts IEC/0.8 cu.ft capacity/5 power levels
Model KM2500M
was £179.99
In-store £89.99
FREE KENWOOD JUG KETTLE
VOUCHER £79.99 SAVE £100
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

VIDEOS UP TO 45 TO CHOOSE FROM
TOSHIBA VIDEOPLUS+™ VIDEO
● Programme delivery control ● Long play
● Auto set-up
Model V226
was £229.99
sale £199.99
3 DAYS ONLY £179.99 SAVE £50
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE
TOSHIBA NICAM STEREO VIDEO
Jog shuttle/4 recording heads/Satellite control
Videoplus+™
Model V857, was £429.99
previously £459.99, £499.99
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
SALE £359.99 SAVE £140

TV/VIDEO PACKAGES & TVs UP TO 110 TO CHOOSE FROM
Panasonic TV/VIDEO PACKAGE
21" NICAM STEREO
● 51cm visible screen
Model TX21MD3
In-store £349.99
NICAM STEREO VIDEO
Model NVHD620 In-store £329.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE PACKAGE £649 SAVE £30
Goodmans 28" NICAM STEREO TV
66cm visible screen/Fastext
Easy-to-use instructions
Model 285NS, was £379.99
previously £399.99 sale £369.99
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
3 DAYS ONLY £349.99 SAVE £50
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE
SONY 25" NICAM STEREO TV
59cm visible screen/Auto set-up, Model KV25X1
was £479.99 previously £499.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE £449.99 SAVE £50

CAMCORDERS UP TO 25 TO CHOOSE FROM
JVC VHS-C CAMCORDER
● 28x digital zoom lens
● Image stabilizer
● Wide angle lens
● Macro facility
Model GRAX860EK
was £549.99 previously £699.99 In-store £499.99
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
VOUCHER £469.99 SAVE £230

HI-FI SYSTEMS UP TO 90 TO CHOOSE FROM
aiwa 3 DISC MULTIPLAY CD MINI HI-FI
● 180°-front surround sound ● 125 watts RMS power output
● FM/MW/LW digital tuner, Model NSX-S70
was £279.99
previously £299.99, £349.99
sale £269.99
3 DAYS ONLY £259.99 SAVE £90
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

VACUUM CLEANERS UP TO 50 TO CHOOSE FROM
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
Electrolux COMPACT CYLINDER CLEANER
● 1300 watts power
● Low noise level ● On-board tools ● Floor surface adjuster
Model 2604, was £199.99
SALE £99.99 SAVE 50%

EXTRA SAVINGS ON GAMES SOFTWARE WITH THIS VOUCHER
Available on all Playstation, Nintendo 64, Sega Saturn & PC CD-ROM games
SAVE UP TO AN EXTRA £10

SPEND	SAVE AN EXTRA
£25 – £49.99	£2.50
£50 – £99.99	£5
£100 or more	£10

THE COMET PRICE CANNOT BE BEATEN
The Comet Price Promise guarantees that if you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

MONEY BACK WARRANTY
With a 5-Year SuperCover Extended Warranty, a single premium payment guarantees five years comprehensive cover against product breakdown. If, after five years, you've made no claim, you can get all your warranty money back in full. Ask in store for full details.

THE COMET PRICE: The stores in South Wales do not show savings in store. All items subject to availability. ●Interest Free Option: 10% deposit then 11 equal monthly payments. 0% APR. For example: Cash price = £369.99. Deposit 10% = £36.99. Amount of payments = 11 months at £18.03. Pay the balance £134.67. Total payable = Cash price. 0% APR or for 24 months at £18.03 per month. Total amount payable = £468.71. Interest Free Option or Buy Now Pay Later promotions require you to produce 2 methods of identification on application. [illegible]

هكذا من الإصل

Kaunda sent to jail over coup attempt

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

KENNETH KAUNDA, the 73-year-old former President of Zambia, was arrested early yesterday at his home in Lusaka, the capital, and imprisoned under the country's state of emergency laws — presumably on the orders of Frederick Chiluba, his successor as head of state.

Dr Kaunda's son, Wezi, said the Christmas Day arrest was probably timed to try to avoid publicity. "They obviously thought that journalists would not be working and that lawyers would be difficult to track down," he said.

Wezi Kaunda and his father's housekeeper were the only visitors permitted to see Dr Kaunda at Kamwala holding prison. "The conditions in there are terrible. It is lice-infested," said Wezi Kaunda, adding that he believed his father was held out of "vindictiveness, *to settle old scores*".

No charge has been laid against Dr Kaunda, who returned to Zambia last Sunday after an absence of nearly two months. However, his arrest and detention are clearly linked to an unsuccessful coup attempt carried out by a group of junior army officers on October 28.

Dr Kaunda, who was in South Africa at the time and has denied any connection with the coup attempt, has spent the last two months visiting southern African countries and addressing meetings and groups of businessmen. He has described Mr Chiluba and his Government as "thieves and liars".

> ‘ My father was taken to jail out of vindictiveness to settle old scores. The conditions there are terrible ’

But his own record as President of Zambia, from independence from Britain in 1964 until his defeat by Mr Chiluba in the country's first multi-party elections for 27 years, does not bear close scrutiny. He inherited a country with vast reserves of copper and its valuable by-product, cobalt, but by the mid-1970s it had become one of the world's most indebted nations.

Mr Chiluba's Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) swept to power in 1991 in a wave of popular support for ending the single-party system, but an increasingly brutal political culture, which has tarnished his image as a democrat, has recently prompted some Western donor governments to suspend aid. This year Dr Kaunda was wounded in the head by a gunshot when police broke up a rally of his United National Independence Party which he believed was an attempt to kill him.

His son said yesterday that he feared that his father would be tortured in Lusaka's crowded Kamwala holding prison. He said: "I fear that something very serious will happen if they took him under the detention laws."

Under the state of emergency regulations, detainees can be held for 28 days without charge or access to lawyers. Since it was imposed after the coup attempt at least 90 people, many of them opposition politicians, have been held.

Up to 100 paramilitary policemen, armed with AK47 assault rifles, surrounded Dr Kaunda's home in Lusaka's Roma suburb before dawn yesterday. His son denied them access without warrants, but after a stand-off lasting nearly three hours Dr Kaunda agreed to go to police headquarters.

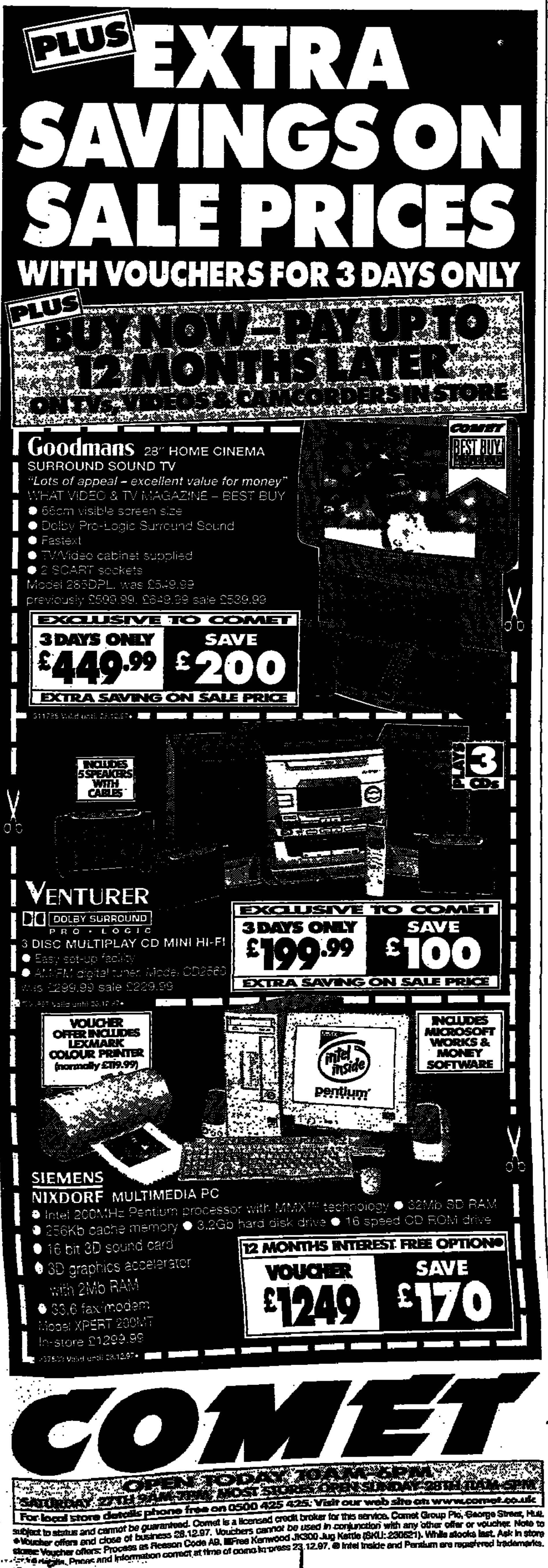
His spokesman, Mohabi Lungu, said: "The commander said they just wanted to have an interview. But it is part of a personal vendetta by Chiluba and his cohorts. They will do anything to try to get at the old man."

Dr Kaunda was driven off from his home in a convoy of pick-up trucks manned by armed police. Soon after his arrival at police headquarters, where the detention order was served on him, he was transferred to the prison. A small Christmas morning crowd had gathered outside the building, and as he clambered into the back of a car Dr Kaunda waved a white handkerchief, his political trademark, and asked them to remain calm.

He said: "I have been detained for 28 days. I don't know why. It doesn't make sense."

EDDIE MWANLEZA / REUTERS

Former President Kaunda, escorted by armed guards, is driven away in a police vehicle to the Lusaka prison



PLUS EXTRA SAVINGS ON SALE PRICES
WITH VOUCHERS FOR 3 DAYS ONLY
PLUS BUY NOW – PAY UP TO 12 MONTHS LATER* ON TVs, VIDEOS & CAMCORDERS IN STORE

Goodmans 28" HOME CINEMA SURROUND SOUND TV
"Lots of appeal – excellent value for money"
WHAT VIDEO & TV MAGAZINE – BEST BUY
- 66cm visible screen size
- Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound
- Fastext
- TV/Video cabinet supplied
- 2 SCART sockets

Model 285DPL, was £549.99
previously £593.99, £549.99 sale £539.99
COMET BEST BUY
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
3 DAYS ONLY £449.99 SAVE £200
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE
311735 Valid until 28.12.97•

INCLUDES 5 SPEAKERS WITH CABLES
PLAYS 3 CDs
VENTURER
DOLBY SURROUND PRO · LOGIC
3 DISC MULTIPLAY CD MINI HI-FI
- Easy set-up facility
- AM/FM digital tuner. Model CD2560

was £299.99 sale £229.99
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
3 DAYS ONLY £199.99 SAVE £100
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE
Valid until 28.12.97•

VOUCHER OFFER INCLUDES LEXMARK COLOUR PRINTER (normally £119.99)
INCLUDES MICROSOFT WORKS & MONEY SOFTWARE
SIEMENS NIXDORF MULTIMEDIA PC
- Intel 200MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ technology
- 32Mb SD RAM
- 256Kb cache memory
- 3.2Gb hard disk drive
- 16 speed CD ROM drive
- 16 bit 3D sound card
- 3D graphics accelerator with 2Mb RAM
- 33.6 fax/modem

Model XPERT 200MT
In-store £1299.99
12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION●
VOUCHER £1249 SAVE £170
Valid until 28.12.97•

COMET
OPEN TODAY 10AM-6PM
SATURDAY 27TH 9AM-[illegible] MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY 28TH [illegible]
For local store details phone free on 0500 425 425. Visit our web site on www.comet.co.uk
subject to status and cannot be guaranteed. Comet is a licensed credit broker for this service. Comet Group Plc, George Street, Hull. ●Voucher offers end close of business 28.12.97. Vouchers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or voucher. Note to store: Voucher offers: Process as Reason Code A9. ■Free Kenwood JK300 Jug Kettle (SKU: 230621). While stocks last. Ask in store for details. Prices and information correct at time of going to press 23.12.97. ® Intel Inside and Pentium are registered trademarks.

Green ribbons show anger at Mugabe land seizures

Shadow of ruin falls on farmers of Zimbabwe, writes **Jan Raath** in Beatrice

THERE is unnerving orderliness here. You would call it obsessive-compulsive if you did not know it was a kind of love.

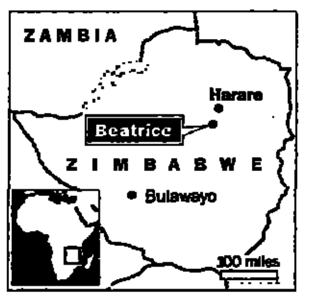
The rows of chest-high tobacco plants could have been fixed by slide rule. The blue enamel surface of the water pump that feeds them is wiped shiny clean. The eland in the game section look as if they have come back from a grooming at the pets' parlour.

Guy Watson-Smith and the other farmers in the Beatrice district, 43 miles south of Harare, and many of their labourers, wear a small green ribbon in their shirts as a quiet protest against President Mugabe's land takeover. Guy, 48, owns two farms. On Alamein's 2,000 acres, the blue-green, elephant-eared leaf fills the space between horizons. It is one of the biggest one-farm tobacco producers in the country.

Elim, 1,260 acres, is next door. Apart from 100 acres of fragile sand, the land is *vlei* (swamp) with clay soil incapable of growing any crop known to man, says Guy. Its coarse, stringy grass can sustain only the giraffe, kudu, impala, eland, zebra, sable, tsessebe and gnu he breeds for game ranchers.

The raison d'être of Elim is water. Beatrice is a high-risk farming area. Rainfall is chronically erratic and neither of the table-flat properties has a river or a catchment.

The Watson-Smiths changed the landscape. In 1991 three bulldozers scooped out clay to build a four-walled reservoir 30ft high and covering 25 acres, the biggest walled dam in the country, for £660,000. A great pump pushes water from the Mupfure river over two miles distant into the reservoir, and then another three miles into the fields of Alamein.



Elim is indispensable to Alamein. Guy spent £83,000 installing drip irrigation on 17 acres this year. He went to Israel to study the technology.

There is no ostentatious wealth. The plain homestead was here when they moved in. He drives a Range Rover, but it is nine years old and worked hard. There is an easy, bantering rapport between the boss and his 98 workers. Nothing could be further from the beer-gutted, sjambok-wielding Rhodesian farmer caricature.

On November 28, President Mugabe tossed all this into an abyss of insecurity. Elim is one of the 1,471 commercial farms gazetted for "compulsory acquisition". No one had come to assess Alamein, Elim or any of the 30-odd farms listed in the district, about a third of the total. Most of them are top producers. "It's as if they were trying to pick the eyes out of the district," he said. "I don't know who did it."

It is the second time politics and race have torn at the Watson-Smiths' roots. In 1983, Guy had to sell the farm on which he was brought up in the Bindura district to the Government. He packed up his family and his 50 workers with their families and moved to Beatrice.

I visited Hanagwe farm in Bindura. It was resettled in 1985 by 57 families of the Fundanevhu co-operative. The homestead and tobacco barns are derelict. There are ten acres of wilting tobacco. The co-op owes Z$900,000 (£30,000) to the bank, and there is no hope of paying it back. "We are failing," said Stanley Zara, the production manager. "It is all *nyoka-nyoka* [chaos] here."

SARAH-JANE POOL

Guy Watson-Smith with his wife, Victoria, and son, Adam, outside their homestead at Alamein farm, Zimbabwe

Moi goes on cash spree in search of votes

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

MONEY and politics have become bosom friends in Kenya, and with voters preparing to go to the polls on Monday the funds are flowing. Worst offender is the ruling party of President Moi.

"They're dishing out money all over the place," said one observer. "They don't know how to do it any other way".

According to sources close to the presidential State House, Kenya African National Union (Kanu) parliamentary candidates have been receiving handouts of 1 million Kenyan shillings cash (about £100,000) to oil their campaigns. The money is distributed at election rallies, 50 or 100 shillings at a time. At one rally near Nairobi, a Kanu candidate was almost lynched after his cash supply ran low.

On election day itself there is expected to be widespread buying of votes. In poor rural areas, voters can be bribed for the price of a kilo of sugar. In Northeastern Province, the provincial administration is reported to be doing just that — handing out bags of sugar and other foodstuffs on behalf of the ruling party.

"There's definitely a lot of rigging going on," said one Western diplomat. "Opposition parties are not above such tricks, but it's mostly Kanu because they're the ones with access to funds."

There have been reports of Kanu officials touring remote areas, buying up voters' cards. The going price is 500 shillings. The areas most affected are those provinces with strong opposition followings.

"Every successful Kanu politician has an Asian businessman in the background," said Sudhir Vidyarthi, whose firm Colourprint produces nearly all the opposition and some Kanu election posters. "These businessmen want to protect their interests ... they know they'll be tolerated as long as they come up with the money."

Floods blamed for spread of African killer disease

FROM KARIN DAVIES IN NAIROBI

MEDICAL experts spent yesterday collecting specimens from Kenyans and Somalis stricken by an undiagnosed illness that has caused at least 45 people to haemorrhage to death.

The Somali Red Cross Society confirmed last night an outbreak in southern Somalia of a disease similar to that reported across the border in Kenya. Red Cross officials said 42 people have died in Torotorow, 72 miles south of Mogadishu. All had high fevers, severe stomach cramps and vomited blood.

In Kenya, doctors have confirmed three deaths from the disease, all of which happened last week at a hospital in the remote town of Garissa. They were trying to verify reports that 171 more people had died in flooded villages in the northeast of the country.

The outbreaks in both countries happened along rivers, the Ewaso Nyiri in Kenya and the Shabeelle in Somalia. Experts speculate that flooding brought on by El Niño that contaminated drinking water and allowed pests that breed in floodwaters to flourish may have caused the disease.

The first batch of specimens gathered in Kenyan villages 200 miles and 350 miles northwest of Nairobi were expected back in the capital late yesterday for testing today. It was unclear when samples from Somalia would arrive.

Twelve possible diseases are being investigated, including yellow fever, dengue, Rift Valley and relapsing fevers. Ebola, which also causes its victims to bleed from the mouth and other orifices, has tentatively been ruled out. *(AP)*

Mexico mourns raid 'martyrs'

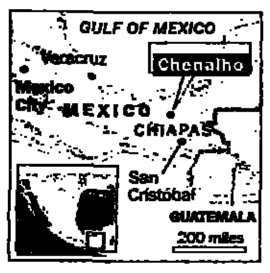
Three held over slaughter of 45 peasants in attack on rebel village, writes **David Adams**

ELIZABETH DALZIEL / AP

Women from Acteal weep for their lost friends and relatives during a wake in nearby Polho. Many of the dead have not yet been identified

AT LEAST three suspects are being questioned over the slaughter of 45 defenceless Indian peasants in southern Mexico, as surviving villagers held a wake in the memory of their lost relatives. None of the suspects has yet been charged.

In the deserted chapel of Acteal, the tiny rural hamlet where the orgy of killing began on Monday, some villagers who escaped the massacre returned on Christmas Eve for a communal meal to honour the birth of Jesus and to remember their dead. Heaps of bloodied clothes, shoes and the bedding of those who died, covered the church floor, providing a grim contrast to the decorations and a Nativity scene. Bloodstains also marked the paths leading from the church down to a nearby river bank, where some of the victims tried to hide before the cries of their frightened children gave them away.



A special Christmas Eve Mass was held in the nearby *village of Polho, where the* bloodstained coffins were laid out in the local church. The dead have yet to be identified and the coffins bore simple labels, such as "Adult, female, 35," and "Adult, male, 23". Blood seeped from the smaller coffins of some of the child victims as they were carried down a steep dirt path lined with Tzotzil Indian women and children holding candles in a late-night vigil.

"I have never before assisted at a Christmas Mass with 45 people dead," Oscar Salinas, the priest, said. "These are people of strong spirit who live on the margins of violence. You could say it was a situation of martyrdom."

Mexicans are demanding that the Government should explain why no effort was made to stop the killing. Roman Catholic Church officials say the Government was alerted to the shooting almost immediately it began. Witnesses said it went on uninterrupted for at least five hours.

The survivors say the attack stemmed from a regional dispute over a local alternative government established by pro-Zapatista villagers.

The victims were members of a Tzotzil Indian organisation called Las Abejas, which sought self-government in the Chenalho district of northern Chiapas. The left-wing Zapatistas' strong peasant support represents a direct challenge to the dominance in Chiapas of the PRI, which has governed Mexico for 70 years.

Human rights groups and church leaders are placing much of the blame on the Mexican Government, saying its failure to move firmly and quickly to disarm paramilitary groups and negotiate a solution to the four-year-old conflict had created the condi*tions that led to the massacre.*

Human rights groups claim that the PRI administration in the southern state of Chiapas has secretly armed the paramilitary groups, supposedly in defence against the Zapatistas. The PRI has insisted that it does not condone violence or encouraged any paramilitary brutality.

"The direct responsibility for these bloody acts rests on [President] Ernesto Zedillo ... and the Secretary of the Interior, who for years gave the green light to a counter-insurgency programme presented by the federal army," said Subcommander Marcos, military leader of the Zapatista peasant army that launched an uprising four years ago to demand civil rights for the Chiapas Indians. Señor Zedillo has bitterly condemned the massacre and Emilio Chuayfett, the Interior Minister, denied the federal Government bore any responsibility, "even by omission".

Catholic leaders said they gave ample warning to the Government that paramilitary violence was brewing. "We have information that paramilitary groups are multiplying," the Church told the Government in a letter in October. "Former soldiers and police are training civilians to fight their brothers, ruling party congressmen are sponsoring the sale and the trafficking of weapons, acting as protectors and co-ordinators of the various paramilitary groups," the letter said.

> ❛ We discovered many of the bodies. We saw some on top of others, dead women clutching their dead children ❜

Church leaders say they continued to provide the Government with specific warnings in the days leading up to the attack on Acteal. When the shooting began, the bishop's office in San Cristóbal de las Casas said it received a telephone call alerting them that the village was under attack. Although that information was immediately passed on to state officials, the Government failed to respond.

Survivors of the massacre, in which 21 women and 15 children were killed, have identified the gunmen as members of a paramilitary group with ties to the PRI. After the shooting began, some villagers were able to escape the gunmen by fleeing down a mountainside.

Augusto Gómez Pérez burst into tears as he told reporters how he and other survivors ventured back to the area on Monday evening after the shooting subsided.

"We discovered many of the bodies. We saw some on top of others, dead women clutching their dead children," he said. Unable to continue, he mumbled, "so much sadness".

His nephew, Juan Vázquez Luna, 15, lost his parents and his sister in the massacre. He said that he ran, while his father made the mistake of trying to crawl to safety.

☐ **Volcano erupts:** Mexico's giant Popocatepetl volcano spewed black smoke four miles high and belched a pool of lava early yesterday in its strongest explosion since June, volcano experts and media reports said. The smoke and ash could be seen 33 miles away in the capital, Mexico City. *(Reuters)*

At least 32 die as Pakistan trains collide

By Christopher Thomas
South Asia Correspondent

A BLUNDER by a railway worker is believed to have been responsible for a train crash in Pakistan in which at least 32 people died and 100 were injured — the latest in a catastrophic record of train disasters that have claimed more than 2,000 lives in a decade.

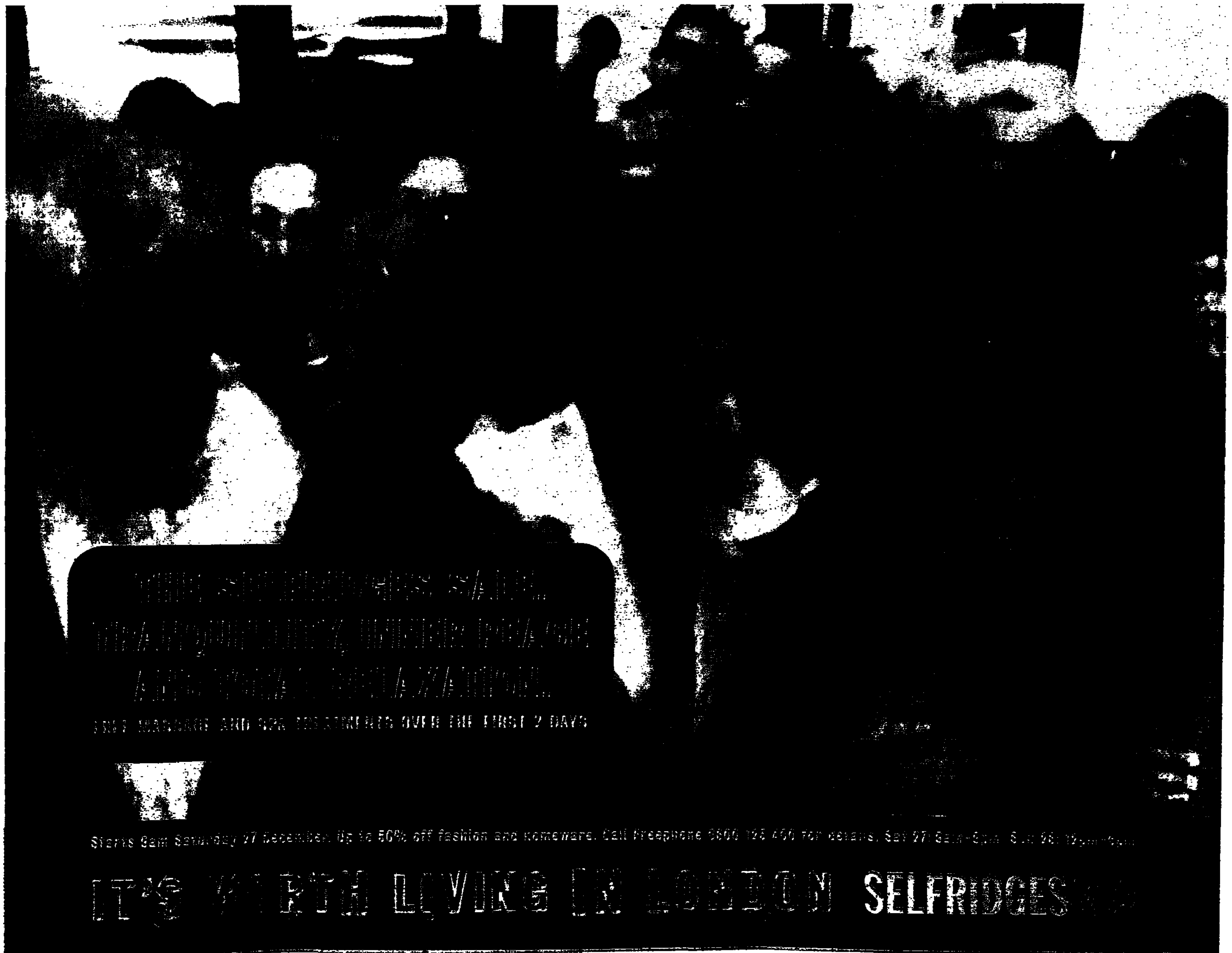
The Rohi express was travelling at top speed through a rural station at Rustam Sargana, 15 miles from the eastern Punjab town of Jhang, when it smashed into the front of a stationary train shortly before midnight on Wednesday. Visibility was low because of fog.

The Associated Press of Pakistan reported that the train should have been on parallel tracks and that a guard or a railway employee in charge of points may have made a mistake.

Some of the world's worst railway disasters have been in Pakistan. In 1989 two passenger trains collided, killing 850 people. In March this year 135 people died when a train jumped the tracks and slammed into a sand dune after the brakes failed.

The Pakistan Air Force was called out to cut free passengers trapped in the carriages of both trains in the latest crash. Villagers carried away the dead and injured before emergency services arrived. Many died from their wounds during the journey to hospital over bumpy country roads. The death toll is expected to rise because of severe injuries sustained by many passengers. Four were described last night as critical.

The train was on its way to Rawalpindi and was not scheduled to stop at the station, where a local train travelling from Multan was about to pull away from the platform when the express smashed into it.


IT'S WORTH LIVING IN LONDON SELFRIDGES

The Jackal plots to beat life of prison boredom

From Adam Sage in Paris

CARLOS the Jackal will today be questioned over a 1982 terrorist attack in the first of a long line of judicial rendezvous that will represent his only break from the monotony of prison.

After his life sentence in Paris on Tuesday for murder, the media-loving terrorist is likely to multiply legal procedures in the hope of winning public exposure and relief from boredom. His lawyers say he will appeal against his conviction for shooting dead two French secret service agents and their informer in 1975.

Illich Ramírez Sánchez, the wealthy Venezuelan Marxist who became known as Carlos, has little hope of overturning the verdict reached by the French jury.

But at least he will be able to demand extra visits from his battalion of lawyers, one of whom, a former model, was found sitting on his knee in a prison interview room last year.

Carlos will no doubt be pleased that his encounters with the man he appears to consider as his sparring partner, the French anti-terrorist judge Jean-Louis Bruguière, begin today.

Judge Bruguière wants to interrogate Carlos over the 1982 bombing of the Parisian offices of the newspaper, *al Watan al Arabi*, which left one person dead. Carlos has been charged in connection with the incident, one of five terrorist acts for which he has been placed under formal investigation.

The others are the 1974 grenade attack on a Paris chemist's, which killed two people; the bombing in 1982 of a train, killing five; the explosion in a Marseilles train station, which left two dead in 1983; and the explosion on the Paris to Marseilles high-speed train, which caused five deaths, also in 1983.

The terrorist's performance at this week's court case suggests he will press for all five procedures to end in public trials, even if that means repeated life sentences for him.

At his first public outing since his capture in Sudan in 1994, the self-styled "militant communist revolutionary" multiplied eccentricities in a successful attempt to seize centre stage.

On the final day he confused observers with a speech of almost four hours in often incomprehensible French that did little to shed light on the 1975 killings. "I have never denied the facts. I have neither confirmed nor denied them. I say, 'I don't co-operate'."

His actions, he said, should be placed in the context of a "world war between Zionism and the Earth's damned, the slaves. This is a fight to the death that humanity is going to win. If not there will be total alienation, the McDonaldisation of the human race."

Beyond the struggle, however, Carlos again let other preoccupations filter through his monologue, notably his own image. Defining himself as a man "not of iron, but of sentiment", he said: "A mercenary kills for money . . . but we have killed for an ideology, for a cause, the Palestinian cause."

To prove the point, he greeted the verdict with a raised fist, shouting: "Long live the revolution."

ADALBERTON ROQUE / EPA

Cubans packing Havana's cathedral to celebrate Christmas for the first time in 28 years. Many have only a vague idea of what it is about

Cuba learns how to enjoy Christmas

From David Adams in Miami

THOUSANDS of Roman Catholic worshippers packed Havana's cathedral yesterday to give thanks for their first Christmas holiday in nearly three decades.

The celebrations came after a surprise decision last week by President Castro to restore the traditional holiday as what he called a one-time exception to honour next month's historic visit by the Pope. For the first time since 1969, Cubans did not have to get up on Christmas morning and prepare for work or school.

Many Cubans were celebrating Christmas for the first time and have only a vague idea of what it is all about. Although it was never completely outlawed, practising any religious faith in Cuba was discouraged by the Communist authorities after Señor Castro was swept to power in the 1959 revolution. Cuba officially declared itself an atheist nation in 1962, and the Christmas holiday was discarded in 1969 to boost the sugar harvest.

Until recently having a Christmas tree was looked upon as an insult to the revolution. But these days Cuban officials can no longer find any contradiction between Christmas and the revolution. Christmas began making a comeback after the Government began lifting restrictions on religious worship in 1992. For the first time this year Christmas trees and other holiday items went on sale in government shops.

Government pork was also being offered in state-run markets at subsidised prices. No feast is complete in Cuba without roast pork, and many families in Havana have taken to smuggling pigs into their flats and fattening them for months in advance of important birthdays and holidays.

Traditional Christmas decorations remain in short supply and are too expensive for most people, who earn state salaries of no more than £10 a month. During years of economic hardship Cubans have become experts in cannibalising all sorts of odds and ends and fashioning them into makeshift objects of worth. Christmas is no different, as families convert potted plants into substitute Christmas trees, adorning them with home-made decorations.

☐ Papal message: In a special Christmas message to the Cuban people last weekend, the Pope welcomed the return of the religious holiday. However, in an apparent sign of his readiness to challenge Cuba's Communist authorities, he made a veiled appeal for the Christmas holiday to be restored permanently.

NEWS FLASH! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 30 YEARS, CASTRO HAS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED CHRISTMAS!!
YOU KNOW— HE DOES LOOK A LITTLE FAMILIAR...
MARXISM
CAPITALISM

Castro meets Santa Claus: How the issue was seen by cartoonist Kal in the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper

WORLD SUMMARY

Four more may have avian flu

Hong Kong: Four more people were feared to have avian flu, which has killed at least three people here and forced the government to ban chickens from China.

A government statement said the latest possible victims included a woman, 25, who was in a critical condition. Two young boys were also in hospital, and a year-old boy has been discharged after he recovered. Blood tests on 732 chickens have tested negative for the virus. *(Reuters)*

Director dies

Milan: Giorgio Strehler, 76, one of Italy's best-known theatre directors and Shakespeareans, died of a heart attack in Switzerland. In 1947 he founded Milan's Piccolo Theatre, where he worked for half a century. *(Reuters)*

Spacemen paid

Moscow: Mir cosmonauts were finally paid in full. Their money was withheld during an inquiry into a collision involving the space station. Commander Vasily Tsibliyev and engineer Aleksandr Lazutkin returned in August. *(AP)*

Churches stoned

Jakarta: A 300-strong mob using sticks and stones destroyed two houses used as Christian churches in a village 12 miles west of Indonesia's capital. The country is mainly Islamic. Many of the worshippers were ethnic Chinese. *(AP)*

Wrong target

Ankara: Eight people, including two civilians, were hurt when a missile struck a ship used to launch target balloons during a Black Sea training exercise for Turkish cadets. One of those injured was in a serious condition. *(Reuters)*

Striking escape

Brussels: Vincent Buret, 25, an armed robber, has broken out of jail for the fourth time, by climbing down from his high-security cell on the ninth floor of Belgium's largest prison. He escaped as guards were on a pay strike. *(Reuters)*

Mayor scraps Tiber tunnel

From John Phillips in Rome

A GRANDIOSE plan to build a fast motor underpass along the Tiber next to the Castel Sant'Angelo by 2000 has been scrapped by the Mayor of Rome, Francesco Rutelli, after archaeologists said the project could undermine the foundations of the fortress.

Signor Rutelli is responsible for celebrations to mark the advent of the Christian millennium. He said it was not feasible to complete the tunnel before December 1999, the deadline for completion of infrastructure projects for use by millions of pilgrims.

The underpass project had been criticised by cultural heritage representatives who want more tests to be carried out to determine the possible impact on Hadrian's Mausoleum. Environmental pressure groups also opposed the proposal on the ground that Castel Sant'Angelo might be undermined by excavations.

It is the second time the city fathers have had to retreat on pledges to create jobs through public works schemes. More than 6 billion lire (£2.2 million) was spent on preparing for the tunnel.

The Vatican backs the plan since it could ease traffic around St Peter's Square.

German 'suicide bomber' accused

From Ross Dunn in Jerusalem

ISRAELI police have charged a German convert to Islam with terrorism, after he allegedly became the first non-Arab to volunteer to become a suicide bomber.

Stephen Joseph Smirak, 26, a German citizen, was to have made the mission on behalf of the Iranian-backed militant Muslim movement, Hezbollah, based in Lebanon.

He appeared in a Tel Aviv court yesterday "charged with helping an enemy in war with Israel", passing on information to Hezbollah which could have harmed the security of the Jewish state, and membership of a terrorist organisation. The two-hour hearing was closed to reporters.

Afterwards Herr Smirak's lawyer denied that his client had pleaded guilty to the charges. He said that this would be determined only when proceedings resume on January 4. If convicted, Herr Smirak could face life imprisonment.

The charge sheet says Herr Smirak converted to Islam in 1994 and two years later made contact with Hezbollah. Police allege that Herr Smirak told them that, if released, he would resume working towards his suicide-bomb goal.

He allegedly underwent explosives training in a Hezbollah camp in Lebanon before arriving in Israel on November 28. He was sent to videotape crowded places in Tel Aviv and Haifa and was due to travel on to Turkey, where he was to have met his Hezbollah operators.

In Turkey, he was to have received his final orders — including instructions about how to prepare an explosive device and the intended location of a terrorist strike. But he never reached the second stage of his operation. He was arrested by Israeli intelligence agents, after his arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion airport.

In the three weeks since his arrest, he has been interrogated but details of his confessions were kept secret. A restraining order on publication of details about the case was only partially lifted on Wednesday.

Police said Herr Smirak had a history of criminal activity, including drugs and robbery, and had served time behind bars in Germany. He reportedly exchanged his passport in Europe to hide any trace of his stay in Lebanon before arriving in Israel.

Israeli intelligence has claimed Hezbollah has been attempting to enlist Europeans for terrorist strikes. In a statement issued in Lebanon last night, Hezbollah leaders denied they had recruited Herr Smirak to plan a suicide attack and claimed the story had been made up by Israeli intelligence agents.

New York murder rate still in decline

From Tunku Varadarajan in New York

NEW York is on course to register its lowest murder rate in 30 years. With less than a week to go before the official annual tally is compiled, police have recorded only 746 homicides, a 22 per cent decrease from last year, when 961 people were killed.

However, heartening as the figures are, the city's declining murder rate still needs to be kept in perspective. More people have been killed here this year than in Britain, where 680 murders have been recorded. Credit for the fall in homicides is being given to Rudolph Giuliani, the city's Mayor, as well as to Howard Safir, the Police Commissioner.

Their "zero-tolerance" police policy has ensured that New York is much safer to live in than five years ago. In 1992, before Mr Giuliani took office, murders reached a record peak of 2,262. Over the succeeding years, the rate dropped annually.

Although there were fewer murders in 1997, it did record more than its fair share of high-profile homicides. They included a string of Central Park killings and the death of Malcolm X's widow, who was set alight by her grandson.

Russia backs down in spying row

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

RUSSIA yesterday backed away from an embarrassing and potentially damaging spy row with Washington, when an American accused of espionage was allowed to leave the country in an alleged gesture of seasonal goodwill.

Richard Bliss, 29, an electronics engineer from California, was expected to be home for dinner in San Diego last night, exactly a month after he was arrested by Russian counter-intelligence officers in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don. The Federal Security Service (FSB), the successor to the KGB, said that he was being allowed home as a humanitarian act.

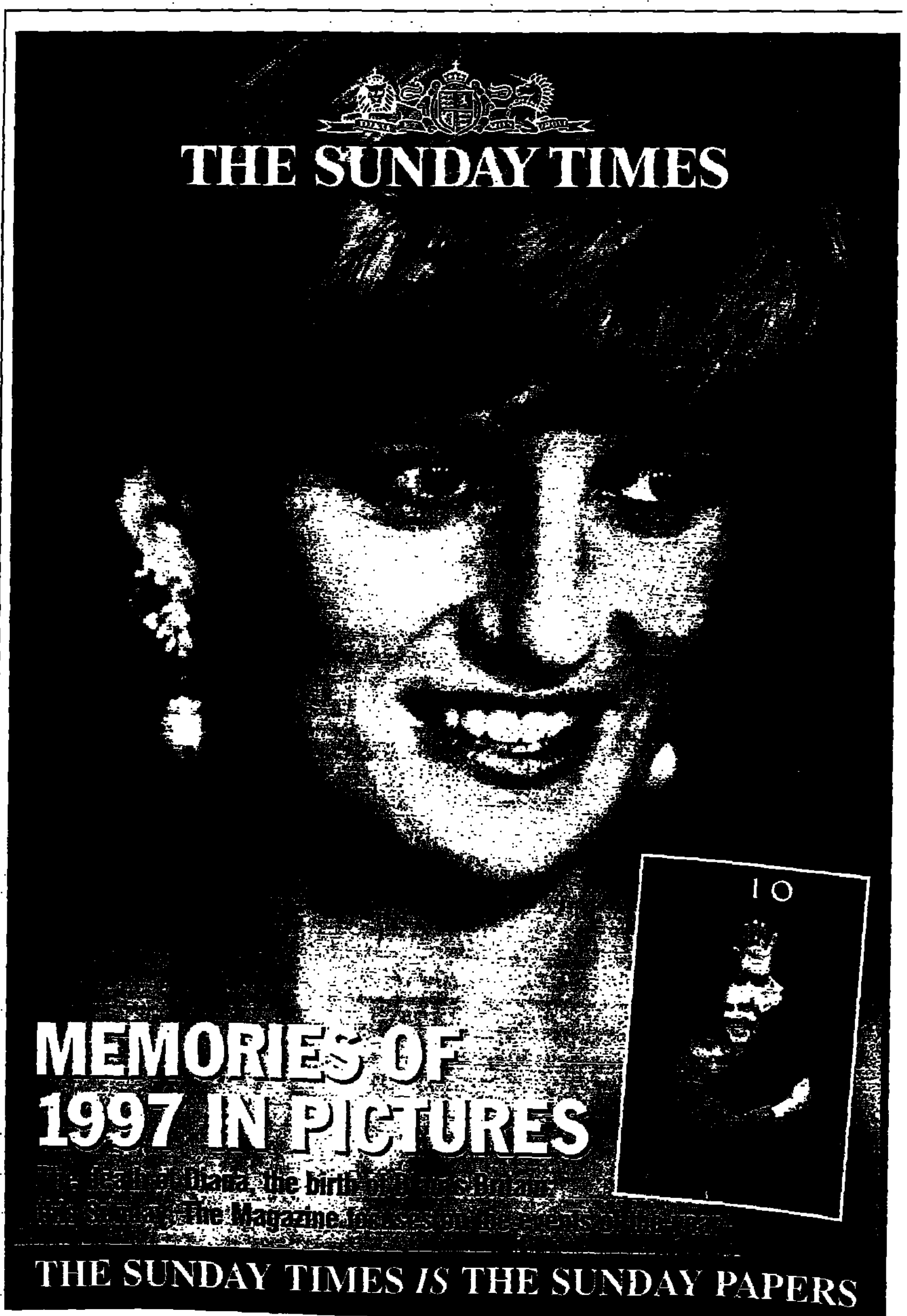
If prosecutors require his presence he has been ordered to return to Russia by January 10, when he could stand trial on espionage charges and face up to 20 years in prison.

However, the move was widely regarded by both Russian and American officials as a face-saving climbdown by Moscow, after over-zealous counter-intelligence officers wrongly detained Mr Bliss, who was found using satellite receivers in a sensitive area of Rostov.

It transpired that Mr Bliss, who works for the Qualcomm Corporation of California, was simply a technician carrying out installation work for a new cellular communications system in the city. "Had he been a real spy, nobody would have sent him to America for Christmas," said Valeri Petryasev, the lawyer defending Mr Bliss, who doubted that the case would get to court.

Although such incidents do arise occasionally in Russia, particularly in provisional areas where local counter-intelligence officers often treat foreigners with Soviet-style suspicion, this particular case deteriorated into the worst of its kind since the end of the Cold War six years ago.

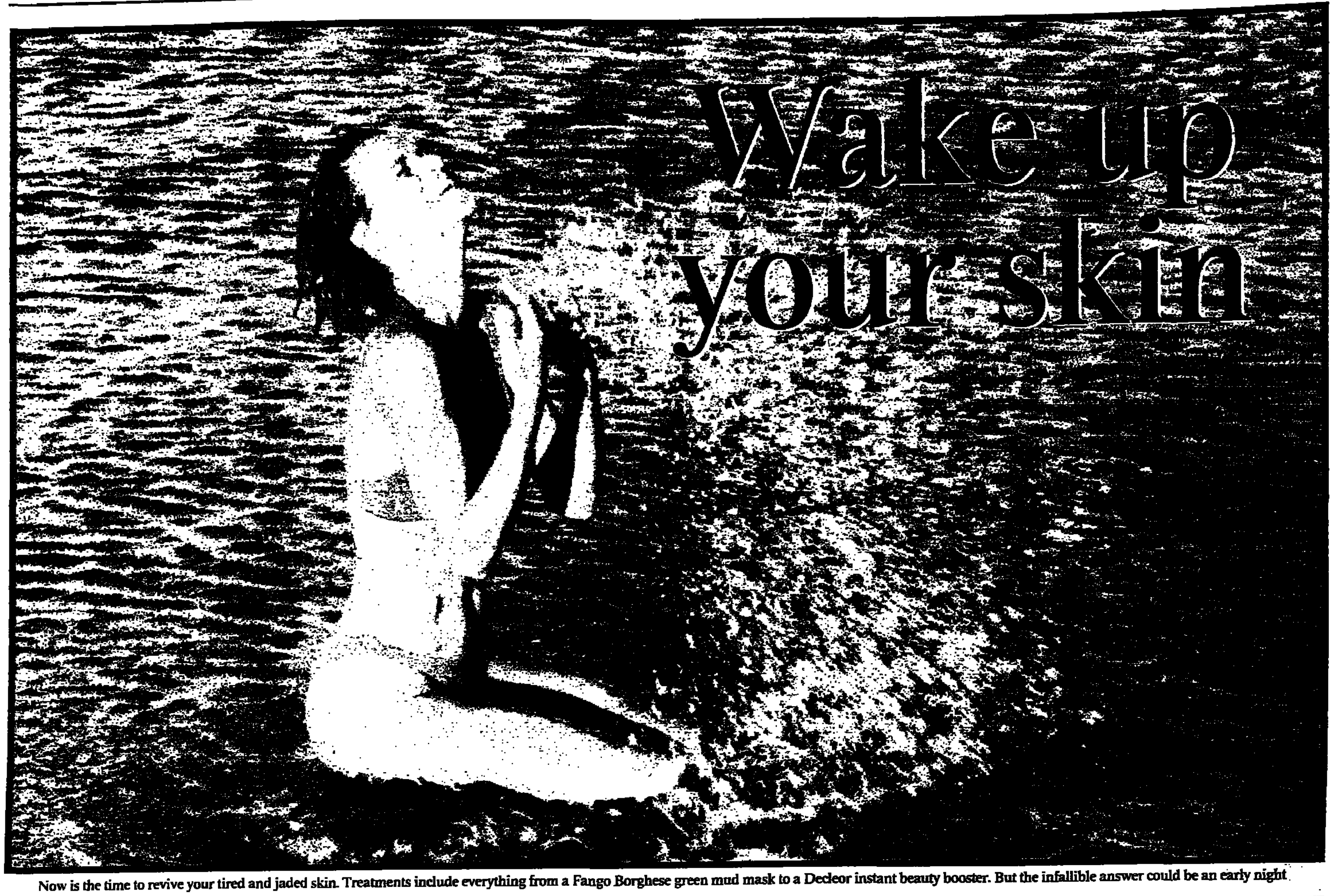
The arrest sparked an angry response from Washington and the case was taken up by Al Gore, the American Vice-President, and a number of congressmen, who threatened to take retaliatory action against Russia unless Mr Bliss was freed. His return home was regarded by the United States as the end of the affair.



THE SUNDAY TIMES
IO
MEMORIES OF 1997 IN PICTURES
The Magazine
THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

هكذا من الأصل

Wake up your skin

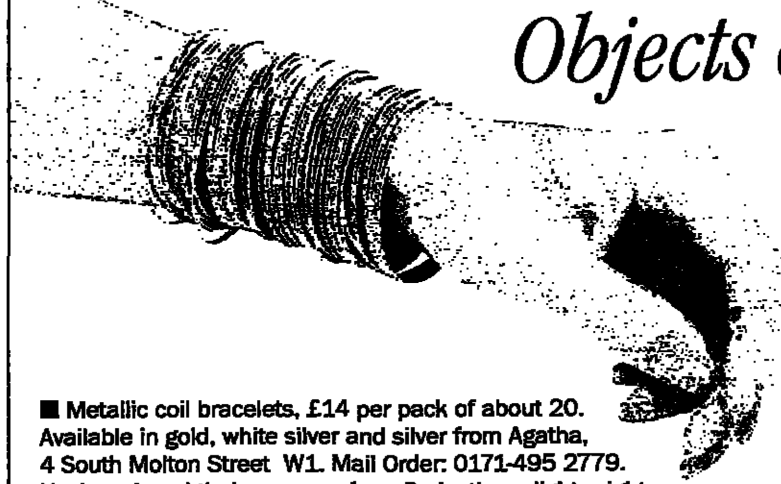


Now is the time to revive your tired and jaded skin. Treatments include everything from a Fango Borghese green mud mask to a Decleor instant beauty booster. But the infallible answer could be an early night

HOT TIP

Nails, £3.99, published by Kyle Cathie. Fly the flag, go girlie with daisies or do the polka with dots. There are 28 nail designs in this small, compact and beautifully photographed book that will help you to paint your claws to match your mood.

Objects of desire



■ Metallic coil bracelets, £14 per pack of about 20. Available in gold, white silver and silver from Agatha, 4 South Molton Street W1. Mail Order: 0171-495 2779. Having winged their way over from Paris, these lightweight, almost spring-coil-like, metal bracelets are adorning every fashion editor's arm. Worn with simple suits, they will add to the minimalist look, as well as giving an ethnic touch to the Far Eastern fabrics around at the moment. Beware: put them on only three at a time or they "ping" apart and are very difficult to push back together again.

■ Blow-up chair, £55, from Oliver Bonas, 10 Kensington Church Street W8 (0171-368 0035). Despite this chair coming with a foot pump, it takes a while to fully inflate. Once blown up, however, it is surprisingly comfortable and rather bouncy, and looks extremely cool.

Reflections on Morticia Addams

If you look, and feel, like someone who was put to death a couple of thousand years ago, read on . . .

CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

Oh, no! It is the Nightmare after Christmas. You wake to the frosty sunlight pouring through the window, and the sound of someone pounding on the door. After a moment, you realise that the pounding is actually inside your head. Your eyeballs have shrivelled in their sockets like a couple of sultanas in a nutshell. You feel like someone who was horribly put to death a couple of thousand years ago. Rising from your bed like a mummy emerging from its sarcophagus, you judder over to the mirror and take a look. It cracks from side to side.

Well, no, all right, it doesn't. But still, the ruby-eyed reflection gazing back at you might be Morticia Addams's elder sister after a particularly heavy night on the beetle juice. It is a grim sight, and what makes it all the worse is that tonight is the party of the year, to which *he* is definitely coming. It has to be said that in your present condition, even Frankenstein's Monster might take one look and find an excuse to be elsewhere. So, what are you going to do about it?

If you are aged between 18 and 24, you can stop worrying. Sausage, bacon, eggs, mushrooms, dripping toast and a glass of champagne just before you go out will probably see you blooming this evening as prettily as ever. The rest of you had better stay behind and pay attention.

What you do now by way of a pick-me-up will depend largely on how much time you have at your disposal. Your poor old liver might have benefited from Zand's Milk Thistle dietary supplement, and your immune system from a dose of Kombucha Mushroom Elixir, if only you had started taking them, as urged by *Vogue*, when the party season started. For now, though, it is emergency measures only. You might start with a purifying mud face pack. La Prairie does a Cellular Purifying Clay mask which reeks punitively of something antiseptic and tingles when you put it on. You emerge shrimp pink, with every pore tightened to its limit. The Fango Borghese mask shown here is a gentler experience but still perfectly effective.

If you are expecting visitors and don't want to have to greet them looking like the Creature from the Crypt, a serum is quicker and less messy than a mask. A serum is usually a clear liquid, often packaged in quasi-medical fashion with a little glass dropper. You apply a tiny amount to a clean skin for a quick lift.

Feeling a trifle jaded a couple of weeks ago, I found myself at the Lancôme counter, being lectured on the magical properties of the Oligo-Major anti-fatigue stimulating serum. "A lot of my ladies use it when they have been in hospital," said the enamelled Ancient Mariner behind the till. Good grief! I was obviously looking even worse than I had thought. Morale reduced to the size of a pea, I handed over my credit card and went home with a little bottle of stuff that smells like Vim, but seems to be working quite well.

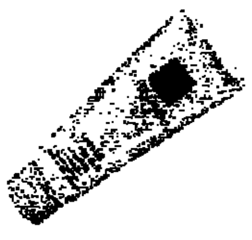
But what if there is not even time for that? It is half an hour before the crucial date, and you are convinced that your only option is a vow of perpetual chastity and a lifetime spent doing good works with the Little Sisters of the Irredeemably Plain. Just before you book a fitting for the habit, you might try one of the balms produced by sympathetic cosmetics companies for hopeless cases such as yours.

Decleor's Instant de Beauté promises to "eliminate tiredness and restore a radiant glow to the face". It smells divine, but I fear that exhaustion is too indelibly scrawled over my visage for it to respond. Clarins Beauty Flash Balm smells less nice but seems to work better. In either case, the effort of slapping it on will at least get the circulation going.

Of course, the one really infallible pick-me-up is a nice early night. Next morning you will look ravishing. The only thing is, no one will be awake to see you. They will all still be sleeping off the excesses of the night before.

SIX OF THE BEST

Partied out and wondering how you dare show your face on New Year's Eve? Here are six of the best products to revive sallow skins.

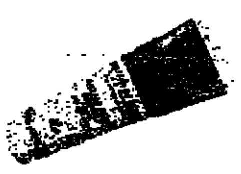


ESTEE LAUDER QUICK LIFT 4-MIN MASK
This was quick to apply. It had a fresh smell and dried quickly, leaving the skin refreshed, clean and taut. 7/10
£18.50, at major department stores.

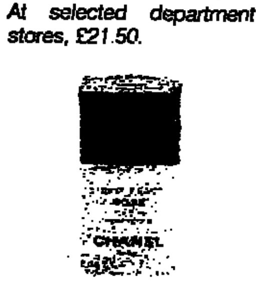
FANGO BORGHESE ACTIVE MUD
This huge pot of green mud was fantastic. It was thick and cool to apply, making the skin tingle. Washed off, it left my skin smooth and spot-free. 10/10
At selected department stores, £29.

SHU UEMERA PRINCIPE 21
Cool and soothing to apply, it revived my partied-out skin so much that after one heavy evening I was told by several people how well I looked 9/10
Available at Fenwick, New Bond Street W1, £50.

SHISEIDO VITAL PERFECTION HYDRO-INTENSIVE MASK
Very quick to use (took only three minutes). Skin was taut and shiny afterwards. Created a great surface for foundation. 7/10
At selected department stores, £26.50.



DECLEOR INSTANT BEAUTY BOOSTER
Clinical packaging. Whitish gel goes on easily. Smells delicious. My skin may possibly be too far gone for help but for me it was ineffectual. .... 6/10.
At selected department stores, £21.50.



CHANEL TEINT EXACT ROSE
Does cover blemishes, but with a matt-like finish. It felt heavy but was good for total coverage for dull skin....................... ..... 5/10
Available at leading departments stores, £24

Compiled by
DEBORAH BRETT

HOBBS
SALE
NOW ON
Reductions up to 50%
For nearest branch phone 0171 586 5550.

just talk
Just Talk
Motorola mr201

Orange Just Talk means no written contract or monthly bills. £149.99 r.r.p. gets you a Just Talk Motorola mr201 phone, connection to Orange and 15 minutes of free calls. Because there are no ties, it's the perfect Christmas gift.

- No credit check needed.
- Top up cards available in 15, 60 or 200 minutes from Orange stockists and high street retailers nationwide.
- Once you've bought talktime you can receive calls for 6 months, for no additional charge.
- Orange digital network covers 95% of the UK population and is still growing, with a further £800m being invested.

No monthly bill.
No commitment.
just talk with calls from just 29p per minute.

For more information call Orange direct on 0800 80 10 80 or visit www.orange.co.uk
orange

هكذا من الأصل

The cook, the wife and the party girl's secrets for surviving the season

Jason Cowley discovers ways to avoid the dreaded festive fatigue and ensure that the fun keeps running into new year

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Celebrity cooks Mick and Nick Nosh see luck, stamina and good planning as the key. Says Mick, left: "You must pace yourself over Christmas — easier said than done"

Mick Nosh is a *bon viveur*, restaurateur and a regular on the London party circuit. Together with his partner, Nick — the self-styled Nosh Brothers — he has written several books on food and entertaining.

"How does anyone keep going during the party season? Luck, stamina and good planning . . . The last holds the key for me; the Nosh Brothers' life is a punishing round of socialising — professional and personal. We run an outside catering business, write books, do some televison and as much lunching and partying as we can. In the run-up to Christmas, if you want to see everyone — go to the parties — events have to be organised with military precision.

"This year I'm in Canberra for Christmas, staying with my parents, who love their food. My mother is German-born, so we have goose for Christmas Day; my father loves his wines. I plan to drink good, subtle wine and eat beef on the bone every day. My younger son, who is 19, went to Canberra a week before me and has already put on half a stone.

"To sustain myself during the slow run-up to the new year — and if I get bored in Canberra — I'll move on to Syndey for the beaches, restaurants and party scene. It's blisteringly hot there at the moment, as those rampaging bush fires show. And then it's on to Bali for new year, where I'll meet up with friends.

"I've never much enjoyed new year in London — everyone usually runs out of steam after Christmas and there's a fake frivolity about much of the scene. I prefer Amsterdam, where the streets are really vibrant, full of exploding fireworks and light, and where there is usually a hint of danger and chaos. Or the Tropics, where there are bars as good as you find in Barcelona and, if you want, you can also enjoy the peace and tranquillity of deserted beaches."

He adds: "Of course, burnout is a constant worry. The other day, Nick had a lunch with a few old friends at the Oxo Tower restaurant on the South Bank, at which they each had to drink three bottles of wine. Then they headed for the Groucho for more of the same. The Groucho is our oasis; it's where we can hooliganise with our friends without being in the public gaze. But you must learn to pace yourself over Christmas, not do too much too soon.

"Which is easier said than done, for we are big guys with big appetites. Our white coats are a licence to cause mayhem, and this is the time of year when the real mayhem takes place."

SALLY JANE ELLIS, 38, a housewife and qualified riding instructor, says: "Every year Christmas seems to be that much more hectic and panicky." She lives in Huntingfield, Suffolk, with her husband, Tim, and their two young children, Gemma, nine, and Tristan, three. Before moving to Suffolk she ran her own equestrian centre with 40 horses in Essex.

"You have to start earlier and earlier if you want to get everything done, especially if you are entertaining, as I have been. Those few days between Christmas Day and the new year can be terribly fraught for a busy housewife: I sometimes wonder how I keep going.

Aliza Reger: spends Boxing Day in bed

"I always do my Christmas shopping in short bursts, less exhausting than trying to do it all at once at the last minute, and try to think of a theme every year. It stops me panicking. For example, this year all the men in the family got mini-torches and I bought dishes for my three sisters and sister-in-law. As for food shopping, the nearest supermarket is 70 miles away, so making last-minute dashes is something of an impossibility.

"I find that setting myself deadlines helps to keep on top of things. For example, I make the Christmas cake and pudding in November, and have a rule that cards have to be written and sent by December 1, although a few to business associates are always left until the last minute.

"On Christmas Day last year, I got up at 5am to muck out our five horses, which also needed to be taken out for exercise later in the day.

"I put the turkey in to cook at that time on Christmas morning, although I did contemplate putting it in the oven the night before so it could cook through the night. My parents, mother-in-law, younger sister, Kat, and her boyfriend and child spent Christmas Day with us. Kat is a dairy farmer so she is also extremely busy around the Christmas period.

"The past week has been absolutely manic; I have been going to bed at 1.30am and getting up at 5.30 — even though I have a considerable amount of help at home. We have two girls to help us with the horses. We also have Jenny, who helps with the cleaning, and Shirley, who helps with the ironing. However, we do a great deal of entertaining and partying, so there is always so much to do.

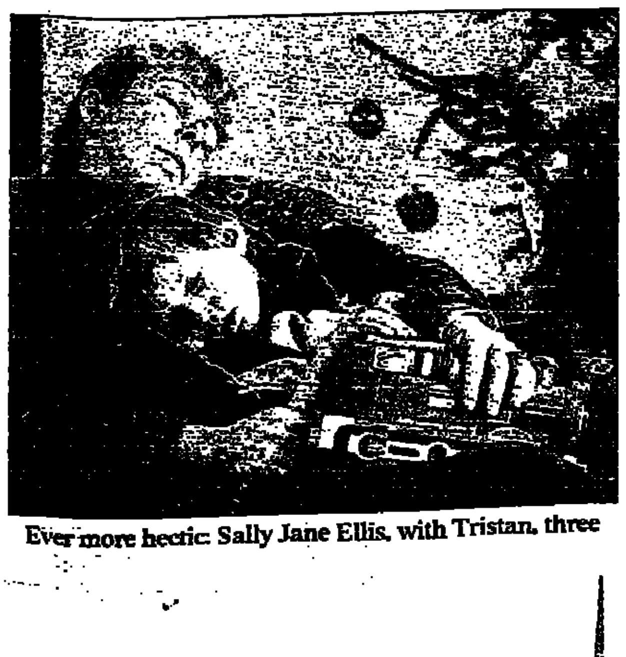
Sally Jane believes: "The most important thing is just to keep going. The new year celebrations always seem slightly less organised than those for Christmas, perhaps because by the time New Year's Eve arrives everyone is exhausted. We will be spending New Year's Eve at home, enjoying our new indoor swimming pool, but I've accepted that I won't get a real opportunity to relax until February when the whole family is going on a skiing holiday."

ALIZA REGER, 32, business executive and party girl, says already she has had a "typically frantic" season: "I've been going to two or three events a night, sometimes more. Then there are all the professional social functions, the lunches, newspaper and magazine parties, wine and canapé brunches. To survive, it's a case of burning the candle at both ends. Except that I've learnt not to drink; or at least not to drink too much. I'm a tiny person, seven-and-a-half stone and not much more than 5ft 2in. I feel dizzy after a couple of glasses and suffer dreadful hangovers. A friend once recommended that I take Resolve, but that made me feel sicker than the alcohol. So now I limit myself to one, perhaps two drinks per party. That's one way to keep going.

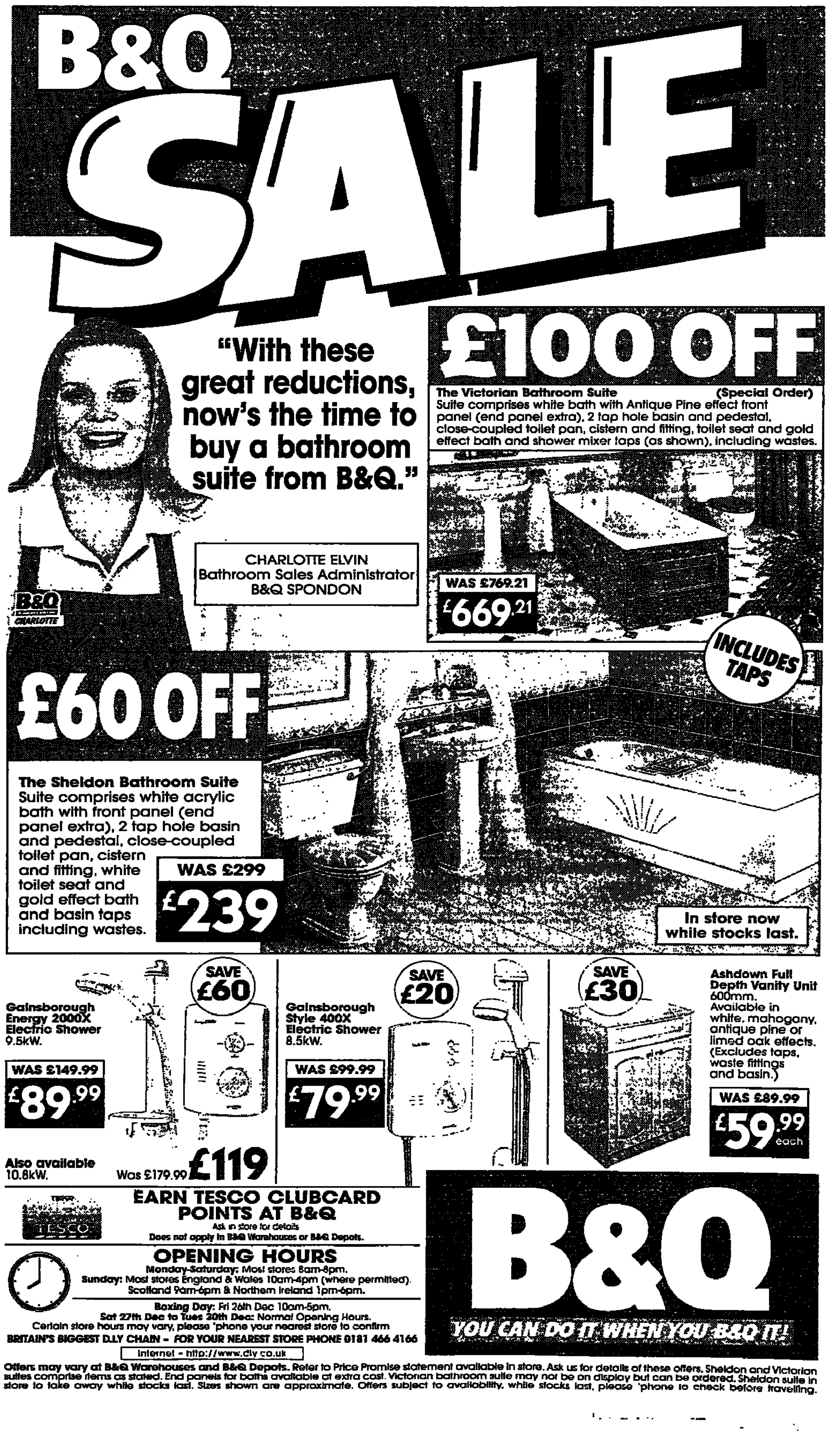
"The other is to spend Boxing Day in bed, doing nothing. Most years I do Christmas dinner at home for about 20 people, friends and family. Which means getting up early, despite the excesses of the night before, rolling up my sleeves, putting on the rubber gloves and working, working, working. The situation is complicated by the fact that my birthday, December 27, falls between Boxing Day and the new year. So just when you think it's safe to rest, you have to start all over again. I'm not one of those people who ignores birthdays; I hope to be celebrating mine when I am 90.

"This year I'm celebrating it in Mauritius with my husband, Andrew, and our daughter, Annoushka, and many friends. Nothing has been planned, although some of our friends arrived early to suss out what is going on. The big hotel parties don't really appeal to me, 200 or 300 anonymous people meeting in a spirit of fake bonhomie. What I'm looking for is something looser, more creatively relaxed: let's call it spontaneous combustion.

"In January I start a new job, as chief executive of Janet Reger. But, despite the increased responsibility, this won't stop me partying; nothing could do that."



Ever more hectic: Sally Jane Ellis, with Tristan, three



B&Q SALE

"With these great reductions, now's the time to buy a bathroom suite from B&Q."

CHARLOTTE ELVIN
Bathroom Sales Administrator
B&Q SPONDON

£100 OFF

The Victorian Bathroom Suite **(Special Order)**
Suite comprises white bath with Antique Pine effect front panel (end panel extra), 2 tap hole basin and pedestal, close-coupled toilet pan, cistern and fitting, toilet seat and gold effect bath and shower mixer taps (as shown), including wastes.

WAS £769.21
£669.21

INCLUDES TAPS

£60 OFF

The Sheldon Bathroom Suite
Suite comprises white acrylic bath with front panel (end panel extra), 2 tap hole basin and pedestal, close-coupled toilet pan, cistern and fitting, white toilet seat and gold effect bath and basin taps including wastes.

WAS £299
£239

In store now while stocks last.

SAVE £60
Gainsborough Energy 2000X Electric Shower
9.5kW.
WAS £149.99
£89.99
Also available
10.8kW.
Was £179.99 £119

SAVE £20
Gainsborough Style 400X Electric Shower
8.5kW.
WAS £99.99
£79.99

SAVE £30
Ashdown Full Depth Vanity Unit
600mm.
Available in white, mahogany, antique pine or limed oak effects. (Excludes taps, waste fittings and basin.)
WAS £89.99
£59.99 each

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q
Ask in store for details
Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS
Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-8pm.
Sunday: Most stores England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted).
Scotland 9am-6pm & Northern Ireland 1pm-6pm.
Boxing Day: Fri 26th Dec 10am-5pm.
Sat 27th Dec to Tues 30th Dec: Normal Opening Hours.
Certain store hours may vary, please 'phone your nearest store to confirm
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST D.I.Y CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166
Internet - http://www.diy.co.uk

B&Q
YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. Refer to Price Promise statement available in store. Ask us for details of these offers. Sheldon and Victorian suites comprise items as stated. End panels for baths available at extra cost. Victorian bathroom suite may not be on display but can be ordered. Sheldon suite in store to take away while stocks last. Sizes shown are approximate. Offers subject to availability, while stocks last, please 'phone to check before travelling.

Everyman's court jesters for our age

John Lloyd speaks up for the class acts of the streets

In the long covered walkway which leads from Dundee's Discovery Point Leisure Centre to the town's main streets, a busker was giving the Christmas shoppers their favourites: *A Scottish Soldier, Will Ye Go, Lassie?* and *So This Is Christmas*.

The sentimental ones are the best, he explains, in a gap between *Flower of Scotland* and *Mr Tambourine Man*: the sentimental ones and the Scottish ones, and if the two are united (as they often are), best of all. A good two or three hours, after which the cold in the draughty hallway drives him into the pub for a break, might net him £20.

Each to their taste. The buskers who work the popular slot at the bottom of the down escalator to the Victoria Line at *Victoria Station camp it up* more. One wears a catsuit and plays trad jazz on a clarinet. A merry Nigerian bangs on the bongos with a backing track on a tape machine, keeping up a line of comic patter with the endless stream of humanity which clanks past. A new act appeared the other day: a striking young woman with wild hair, who sang torch songs unaccompanied, with energy and talent.

They are there on sufferance. The Dundee busker could be moved on under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act of 1982 if he were deemed to be causing an obstruction. The acts at the foot of the Victoria Line escalator are covered by London Transport *bylaw 22, which prohibits* "soliciting for a reward" or "playing a musical instrument to the annoyance of others". In practice, they can work unless someone complains.

Labour, when soliciting for votes, turned a cold eye on these and other street activities and rumbled about tougher laws but nothing has been done and probably nothing will. For the streets appear to be winning this small but important struggle and in so *doing, the people of the streets* are making a modest contribution to restructuring the welfare state.

The Scroogeish spirit of the Victorian-era laws which defined buskers' presence on public thoroughfares as mere "obstruction", is being challenged. A major Metro — in Tyne and Wear — has for the past two years licensed buskers to perform in its 46 stations, and has found the response encouraging.

The private sector has done more. For a decade, the company which owns the piazza in Covent Garden, Guardian Properties, has licensed street performers — it dislikes the term buskers who are indeed in a different league — to *perform in an outdoor pitch* at the back of St Paul's Church, and inside the covered arcade in the centre of the Garden. The performers are licensed in an audition before the piazza's management.

One star has shot out of Covent Garden into the big time. The comedian Eddie Izzard did a comedy sword-fighting act for years in the Garden. He organised his fellow street performers into an association with a constitution, to bargain with Guardian and to limit entry in what can be an overcrowded profession.

Paddy Bramwells runs the association now; he does the Famos *(sic)* Bramwells comedy magic turn, which he defines as in the British tradition of street performing minimalism. There are only two tricks in his act; everything is in the comic *build-up*. The great Tommy Cooper is the epitome of this style.

The Garden is the best organised, but Mr Bramwells says Brighton, Bath, York and Glasgow are all friendly to performers. The space at the foot of Edinburgh's Mound, next to the National Gallery of Scotland is, during the Festival, a rich picking for those who can withstand the unlicensed (but unharried) free-for-all. Abroad, Boston, San Francisco and Sydney all have their street performing spaces — as does the Pompidou Centre in Paris, though that, says Mr Bramwells, is a mafia which an outsider dares to enter at his peril.

Most importantly, Mr *Bramwells says that he and* many of his comrades do not want to leave the streets — on which veterans, like the famed "Butterfly Man" from San Francisco, who does comic-aggressive repartee, spend decades.

Mr Bramwells has a home, a family and an accountant. The man singing *Flower of Scotland* on the windy walkway, or the woman giving *It Had To Be You* all she has by the escalator, are likely to have *an ambiguous relationship* with the police and a non-existent one with the Inland Revenue.

But the cautious nibbling at the edges of the street performers' world by State and commerce should continue and be encouraged; for it is here, in this semi-bohemian, semi-dropout world, that an increasing number of citizens, especially the young, will find at least a temporary home.

It cannot be banned in a free society; *nor should it be. The* musicians and jugglers and comedians who ask for our attention or our sympathy are engaging us in small civic acts, jerking us out of the driven solipsism which urban transport encourages.

They divert, amuse, touch. They provide some antidote to the relentless ambience of themed Muzak; I was glad to hear the neo-nationalist rubbish which is *Flower of Scotland* on the walkway, for at least it was attached to a human being and not enjoining me to Be Merry through loudspeakers.

We believe in competition: Covent Garden shows that auditioning for a space on the street encourages class acts. We believe in enterprise: think, as you digest in the warmth, how much enterprise it takes to set up the bongos and the tape recorder and shout cheerful greetings to an indifferent stream.

The men and women of street entertainment could become Everyman's court jesters for our age. We will need more such obstructions in the new year.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.

Parables of lost innocence

A church high in the Andes stands as a symbol to faith under threat

Matthew Parris

The ancient Bolivian fort town of Curahuara de Carangas has a fine old church, and my friend Peter had an artist friend, Roberto, who was restoring the frescoes and painted ceiling. We hoped Roberto might show us these. We had heard he was accommodated in a roadworkers' camp, but there were no telephones and we were many miles away. All we could do was search for him.

So it was last summer that we took the evening coach from La Paz to the truck-stop of Patacamaya, from where we would have to beg a ride through the night in a lorry. Hunched over a meal of coca tea, stale bread and chicken-claw soup, we found an elderly driver who, for two dollars, would drop us where the road passes closest to Curahuara. The rest we would walk.

In a 70-mile drive we passed no other traffic. From time to time our driver would reach into the dashboard and pull out a white plastic bottle, *from which he would take* a swig. This was 97 per cent proof Bolivian drinking-alcohol.

The road being straight, I felt unconcerned — until he started disengaging his engine on the downhill slopes. These were long and steep. We would freewheel, gathering speed. As the enormous load we were carrying swayed behind us, the cab would shake. When the headlights picked out an upturn in the road, I would sigh inwardly with relief.

"*Son Ingleses?*" he inquired, guessing our nationality. "*Diana. La limpiaron, no?*" He thought she had been "cleaned up" by the Royal Family.

Around midnight the lorry driver pulled over to the hard shoulder. "Curahuara," he said, indicating a junction. He now planned to sleep a little. We climbed down, Peter grabbing *his rucksack and I my rolled-up* sleeping bag. We walked into the night, toward the soft Tilley-light of a corrugated iron hut some way off the road.

A few roadworkers there knew nothing of Roberto. Curahuara was ten minutes down the road, they said. There was no moon. The frieze of peaks around the horizon was black. But arched above us were many millions of stars, and the whole plain was bathed in pale, ethereal light. The road stretched into nothingness: no sign of Curahuara at all.

And it was unbelievably cold. At 1,300ft the temperature was far below zero. The inside of my nose froze, our faces ached, and I began to lose feeling in one hand. So I plunged the arm into the core of my rolled bag, wearing it like a monstrous glove.

We marched in profound silence. *Passing over a bridge we missed the* noise of water; but the river had turned to ice, stopped in its tracks. Nobody passed. Our progress seemed somehow unreal, as though we were trapped within a time-loop, for, though the silvery earth passed beneath our stride, the black shapes of the hills to either hand — more distant than they seemed — never changed or moved. Then, all at once, dark, angular shapes arose to each side.

We stared. These were the rooflines of huts and houses. We were right in the middle of town! In the silence, Curahuara had ambushed us, ghostly and unlit. They stop the generator at nine.

One light glimmered from a window, and we made for it. Three South American Indians were slumped at a table with their beers and paraffin lamp. The barmaid knew nothing of Roberto but took pity on us. We could *have a room for 50 cents.* "You can share the bed," she said, lighting a candle-end and dumping a pile of blankets by the door. Head to toe, toe to head, we just fitted.

Before first light I awoke and ventured out to pee in the yard. The planets almost seemed to flare. The stars burned a dazzling gold and white. The cold cut the lungs and windpipe. 4am on the *altiplano* is a sharp, breathless, enchanted, lonely time. "You never enjoy the world aright," wrote Thomas Traherne, "till the sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars, and perceive yourself to be the sole heir of the whole world."

Sunrise brought blinding light flooding through the iron frame of our broken window and the sound of a cornet playing reveille, as conscripts began marching in the fort. Curahuara's one bus started revving its engine in the square, three hours before it was due to leave.

We found the mayor. Roberto had been away from Curahuara for some weeks, he thought — but would we like to see the paintings? He hoped *these ancient glories of the altiplano* would soon bring tourists to his struggling town. The mayor mounted an old bike and pedalled off to find the church caretaker. She returned with a bundle of enormous keys.

The church is huge and strangely dumpy: imagine something the size of a substantial urban parish church, with mud walls 4ft thick, and roofed in straw. It was completed in the 17th century. Within, almost every square yard of wall and ceiling is covered in wall-painting of the most vivid sort. The frescoes, completed in 1777, were mostly executed by South American Indian and Mestizo converts, after the manner of the period.

The effect was stunning. You can recognise both the style and the themes of 18th-century Catholic art; but here was an enthusiasm, and a naivety, that contrasted with the languor, the lushness — almost *decadence — of European religious* painting. It was Grandma Moses meets Gian Lorenz Bernini. Leaping at the viewer with freshness and wonder was a depiction of their pastor's miraculous vision of angels, and Mary ("This is a true painting of Our Lady of the Snows, Special Defender of Raios").

There were pictures of the Flood, and the Miracles, Gethsemene, the Massacre of the Innocents, and Heaven and Hell. All had a childlike quality — as though the scales had just fallen from the artist's eyes, and he had witnessed the beginning, and end, and meaning of the whole Universe.

A curiosity of the Indian religious art of this period in South America is the artists' apparent inability to get the eyes of animals right. Beasts of the field and birds are given human eyes, eyelashes — even, sometimes, eyebrows. This may be because llama and alpaca do have eyes like people, with prominent eyelashes and (in the case of alpaca) something approaching eyebrows, too. So, in these scenes, sheep, cows, horses and donkeys glance out at the viewer with horribly arresting, intelligent gaze. In pride of place on the church walls was a large, naive version of the Last Supper. On Jesus's plate lay a roast guinea-pig.

Everything was executed with such freshness, such amazement. When the young Indian converts had painted these walls, Jesus and Mary had only recently arrived in the Andes. The paintings were wide-eyed with wonder and faith. The work had the quality of astonishment. Like the eucalyptus tree now marching across the South American highlands and militant in its spread, this Church and its miracles had been, all those centuries ago, what botanists call an introduced species. Like the eucalyptus, it was at first prey to none of the local parasites, the viruses and sapping diseases which rot and check *the spread of native organisms.* New beliefs, like new plant species — like new antibiotics — are given a head start on their enemies. It takes pursuers time to catch up.

But now the church in Curahuara was disused and locked. Guarding the town on a rock hill behind was another church, stone-hewn, magnificent with its belltower; but abandoned, overgrown by grasses and on the edge of ruin. There is no longer a resident priest. Catholicism in the *Andes, now so long established as to* be almost indigenous, has generated at last its own predators. Alcoholism, Protestantism (as rampant now in the Andes as the eucalyptus), capitalism, cynicism, weariness and disbelief throttle the state religion like bindweed.

In the dry hills all around Curahuara stood countless *chullpas*, tomb-houses: mud towers, doorless, windowless and blind, in which the Indians once interred their dead. All have long been ransacked by grave-robbers. The religion of the Incas choked itself too. Greed and civil war delivered their empire, paralysed, into Pizarro's lap. Now the Conquistadors' religion was choking in turn.

We hitched a ride back to the main road. In a cruel sun the frozen stream was running again, through a dry, red, baking plain. "*Ingleses?*" said our driver. "*La Princesa Diana. Ah, pobrecita! La limpiaron, no?*"

Philip Howard

■ *Spizzerinctum* and other words to get out of a scrape

Repentance cometh (to some) on the morning of Boxing Day. *And* a resolution to take things easy until the buzzing in the ears fades. But if *you* are feeling bad, think of Gunter Burpus of Bremen. "In retrospect, I admit that it was unwise to try to gain access to *my house by the* catflap," said Burpus, a 41-year-old gardener. "I suppose the reason they are called catflaps rather than human flaps is because they are too small for people. I should have realised that."

Burpus lost the keys to his house and tried to squeeze through the catflap. He pushed his head and shoulders through, but then got stuck and remained so for two days. "At first, it seemed rather amusing. I sang songs and told myself jokes. But then I wanted to go to the lavatory. I began shouting for help."

After a few hours a group of students came by. They removed his trousers and pants, painted his buttocks blue, and stuck a daffodil between his cheeks. Then they placed a sign beside the Burpus rear end saying "Germany resurgent, an essay in street art. Please give generously," and left.

People were passing, but when Herr Burpus cried for help, they just said "Very good! Very clever!" and threw coins in his trousers. After two days framed as conceptual art, he was rescued only because an old woman complained to the police when a dog started licking his private parts. The rescue services cut him free, and the police then arrested him. On his morning after long days stuck tight, Herr Burpus turned over a new leaf: "Luckily the police have now dropped the charges. And I collected more than DM3,000 (£1,000) in my underpants. So the time was not entirely wasted."

What Herr Burpus has is Spizzerinctum. "Spizzer what?" you ask. Spizzerinctum is American slang for the will to succeed, come catflaps and hot minestrone, as exemplified by Tony Blair, Richard Branson and Greg Rusedsdki. It means never giving up, never saying sorry and keeping smiling through the catflap, even on Boxing Day. You can find such topical words *on a difficult words Website on* the Internet. For example, when the stock market made a dramatic rebound after an equally dramatic decline, the tricky word Website offered: "With remugient defiance, the bull market reappeared Tuesday — at least for a day." Three possible definitions are offered for "remugient": re-bellowing, excessively slimy, or echoing loudly. A click of your mouse on "re-bellowing" brings the surfer to a page saying, "That's right!! Nice job!!" The wrong selection brings up "Sorry" or "Nope".

In fact "remugient" is not difficult for Latin lovers. *Mugire* means to moo. So *remugire* means to moo back. See Virgil, *passim*: "The voice doubled by the echo of the woods moos again." Latin is not just beautiful. It is also useful because it is the root of two thirds of English vocabulary and it forces its user to think of the real meanings without woolly abstractions. *So the latest* edition of the Vatican's lexicon of new Latin looks into the skeletons of new words for activities that would have been well-known in Ancient Rome. A stripper is *sui ipsius nudator* — somebody who takes the clothes off her/himself. A top model is *photogenica puella exemplaris*, a photogenic girl model. Cicero might have been nonplussed by mobile phones and jet aircaft, but Latin has ways of naming their functions. And an Ancient Roman would have understood and recognised rock 'n' roll (*nutare et volvere*, the coarse and violent *sikinnis* of satyric drama), McDonald's and a hot dog. No, not *canis calidus*, foolish boy, but *pastillum botello fartum*.

For our languages and lifestyles in Europe descend from our ancestors, not changing as much as we suppose in our age. If only politicians and greedy manufacturers of animal feed had read Aeschylus, we might have avoided the tragedies and wicked waste of BSE. In his lost play, *Glaucus the Pontian*, (part of the trilogy that won the prize in 427BC), Glaucus, the hero, fed his horses on human flesh in order to make them ferocious for combat. *But the gods were* angry. So they made the horses run berserk. And they ate Glaucus. In our classics and our catflaps we can find comfort even for Boxing Day.

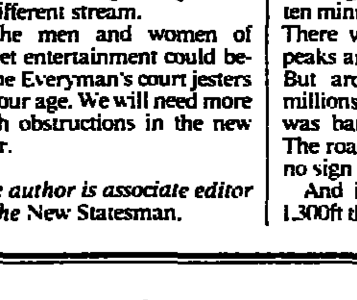
THE TIMES DIARY

Rover's return

CHRISTMAS has come at last for the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert: they have been given a Land Rover which was promised to them by the Prince of Wales nearly two years ago. After discussing the matter with his mentor, Sir Laurens van der Post, the Prince pledged early last year that he would give one of the vehicles — robust beasts with sand-adjusted tyres and air-conditioning — to the First People of the Kalahari, an outfit in Botswana. The promise was made in person to John Hardbattle, a Bushman and cattle rancher, who met the Prince in Scotland.

Problem. Both Hardbattle and Sir Laurens died later that year leaving no one to jog the Prince's memory. The weeks passed, the *months passed*, and still the Bushmen had no Land Rover. The case was taken up by Bushman Roy Sesana, who contacted Buckingham Palace pleading for his motor.

"Sir Laurens dying at the same time as Hardbattle did make things difficult, so there was a delay," admits Buck House. "We wanted to get the Bushmen to come to England to collect it but it was too tricky to organise." The vehicle has now just been shipped to Botswana but problems continue. "We had to have it registered in Gaborone then driven to the Bushmen in Ghanzi," says a khaki suit at Survival International, which helped to organise matters. "It took for ever."



A Bushgirl and the Prince

● *POLICE have sent Christmas cards to known criminals. Before punishment enthusiasts grow too steamed up, I should point out that cards bear the greeting: "thinking of you". A blue hat from Ashford police, Kent, reports: "We have an array of tactics to target criminals and this is just another way of letting them know we are watching them." If it persuades the criminal classes to steer clear of nearby Diary Towers, I will be delighted; yet I am uncertain whether the measure is either tough on crime or tough on the causes of crime.*

Tokyo Tess

THOMAS HARDY, the late Wessex scribbler, is being exported to Japan. An ersatz Hardy village — a manor house, half-timbered shops, white horses carved in the hillside, everything really but a gloomy mayor such as Michael Henchard — is to be built on a 24-acre site on the slopes of Mount Rokko, a smartish ski resort. It will be carried out by the Border Oak Company, a modest outfit in Hertfordshire. "The Japanese are fascinated by British heritage," says the company. So it would seem — they already have an "Elizabethan" village and a pristine replica of Stratford-upon-Avon. One visiting Jap, I hear, tried to buy and take home Leeds Castle.

Writing wrong

CAVORTING in period costumes has done little, it would seem, to awaken the literary sensibilities of the British actress Gwyneth Paltrow. Last week found her at a party in Tinseltown, where she decided to introduce her father to Mitch Glazer, the man who scripted *Great Expectations*. "Dad," she purred, "here's the man who wrote *Great Expectations*." Glazer, with impressive modesty, gently explained that he merely wrote the screenplay.

DOCTORS WORK TOO LONG HOURS
Geoff Thompson

"Say Ahhhh"

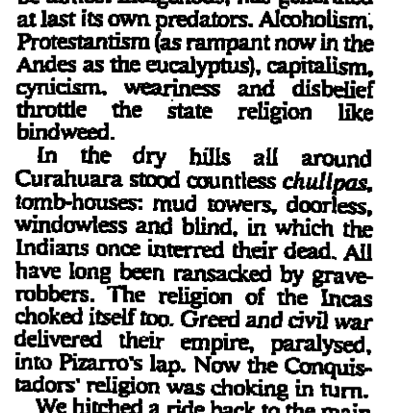
Speak up

LIMBERING up for his maiden speech in the House of Lords is the Earl of Devon — who first took his seat on March 3, 1938. Seeing as he is now 81 and still to speak, it is thought that he has broken all records. This is a shame. The earl has much to impart. He was mentioned in dispatches in the Second World War and owns one of the nation's oldest living creatures — Timothy the tortoise.

Now 159, Timothy, happily hibernating at Powderham Castle, the earl's seat, is also a military hero: she (yes, she) was the lucky mascot of a British man o' war in the Mediterranean. Branded into her shell is the family motto: "Where have I fallen, what have I done?" But when will the earl come out of his shell?

Early Orson

A LOST and unknown film by the late — and great — director Orson Welles has been discovered. More than 60 years after it was shot, the short is to come before the public gaze. He made *Hearts of Age* when just 19, his first cinematic effort.



Welles: back from the grave

The film has been unearthed in Dublin and is to be screened at the National Film Theatre. The director, who was *said* to have been rather embarrassed by his teenage efforts, declared that it had been lost. This is not the stuff of family viewing. It features Welles and his girlfriend, Virginia Nicholson, who became his first wife, running amok in a graveyard. Welles assumes the role of a shadow, whose dialogue is limited to "The shadow always knows". That, and some rather strange moaning.

JASPER GERARD

هكذا من الأزل

HISTORY IS NOW

Fifty years on: the lessons of 1948

"We cannot restore old policies, Or follow an antique drum," wrote the Nobel laureate of 1948, but T. S. Eliot of all poets recognised the debt we owe to the past and the patterns time can weave. "Only through time time is conquered," he wrote in *Burnt Norton*, the first of his *Four Quartets*: a sense of tradition's pull, the long shadow cast by our ancestors, inspired his poetry and animated his prose. Eliot is a poet for all seasons but he is pre-eminently the lyricist of the wintry landscape and the interpreter of Christmas's message to the modern age. This Christmas season *The Times* remembers the old policies and listens to the antique drum of 1948, a year with a claim to be the hinge of this century.

The year in which the century's most influential poet was honoured also saw the wheel of transformation carry to prominence men, places and movements which, 50 years later, have now travelled full circle. In the days ahead we shall reflect on cities, events, inventions and individuals for whom the last fifty years have proved a particular lifespan. In their beginning was their end.

Reflecting on the beginning of that year, the horizon towards which many then peered was further behind them. It was 1848, the Year of Revolutions, which caught imaginations. It was the year when the hopes of change briefly flared on the Continent before old dynasties extinguished them. The struggles of 1848 inspired England's 1948 romantics. At *The Times* the mood was less sanguine. On January 3, 1948 we reprinted the new year comment of 100 years before: "Irish famine, failure of the potato crop, a severe financial crisis, and reckless speculation are items in the catalogue of melancholy." There was irony in the choice. The United Kingdom in 1948 was a country where food was ever-more tightly rationed, Chancellors battled to keep the pound steady and exchange controls had recently been introduced.

But there was hope too. The Attlee Government was in the middle of a transformation of society, building a new Britain on the back of a landslide. The most sweeping of that Government's changes came in 1948. The National Health Service was established, the railways nationalised, the decisive break with our former allies in Moscow made and the Palestine mandate brought to an end: this was the year of the establishment of the state of Israel, a nation born in conflict, sustained by arms.

Fifty years on the wheel has turned full circle. A Labour Government relies on private finance as it ambitiously modernises Nye Bevan's health service and contemplates the overhaul of the whole welfare state. The new Labour Government is pledged not only to abjure state ownership but is preparing for future privatisation of the State's assets. Berlin, the cockpit of the Cold War, is to become the capital of a new Germany in a new Europe with very different barriers. Israel, although the process of peacemaking is fraught, is safer now than at any time: serious diplomatic observers speculate that there will never be another war in that part of the Middle East.

Some of Britain's contours would be familiar to a traveller from 1948. The Government still restricts the sale of food, although for very different reasons. *The Times* still warns the Government, as a candid friend, against too crude an intervention in the labour market or too insensitive an intrusion into the green belt. In the editorials of 1948 it was the direction of labour and the construction of new towns, now it is the minimum wage and the development of new housing estates. The recurrence of the itch to intervene and the happy role of this newspaper in standing for liberty and tolerance of traditional life are reminders of the lessons history can teach us. Any year might yield similar lessons. But 1948, with its spate of births whose lives can now be safely judged, yields more than most. It was a watershed whose rivers have run their course and as we reflect, like Eliot, on "what might have been and what has been" we can better prepare for the millennium which fast approaches.

WON LAST CHANCE

The IMF has acted decisively — South Korea must do the same

It has not been a comfortable Christmas in East Asia. The economic calamity that has engulfed the region in recent weeks does not rest for the Christian festive season. The International Monetary Fund announced on Wednesday that it would intensify and accelerate its assistance to South Korea — a country that started 1997 as a financial powerhouse but seemed destined to end it in a state of slump. Some $10 billion will now be rushed to Seoul to cover the immediate difficulties of debt repayment. As a result, South Korea's currency, the won, has at last shown some stirring of recovery. Sentiments in the local stock market, however, remain exceptionally sombre.

The IMF has moved with admirable vigour. International financial institutions are often criticised, correctly, for bureaucratic inertia. In this case, despite little time in which to make even a provisional evaluation, caution has, rightly, been abandoned. The crisis in Asia has the potential to create a worldwide recession on a scale scarcely seen in the postwar era. The IMF's bold decision should enhance economic stability in the short term and thus avert severe financial meltdown in 1998.

The IMF would have acted sooner were it not for the complexities of South Korean politics. The outgoing, and utterly discredited Government, chose to ignore the warning signs of the coming collapse. There is also considerable suspicion that it actively suppressed such information in the hope of shoring up electoral support. That would certainly fit a far broader pattern of corruption. The election of Kim Dae Jung puts paid to those ambitions. Only in the past week since the presidency was settled have South Koreans discovered how deep and disastrous their plight really is. Honesty was the essential precondition for the IMF to advance its assistance.

The Government has now promised dramatic reforms of its own in return for the bailout. These measures will centre on the complete restructuring of the country's financial system and the widespread introduction of market forces into areas from which they had been excluded. There is now an indication that direct action will be taken to deal with a bankrupt banking network. South Korea will have to go further and faster still if it is truly to tackle its economic crisis. That these initiatives should be accepted by a President-elect associated with the Left is Nonetheless, it may be that in these circumstances only a man from the Left can salvage South Korean capitalism.

It is absolutely crucial that the measures promised are quickly implemented. Strictly speaking it will be another two months before Kim Dae Jung takes office. He has been behaving this week as if he has already assumed power. His country would have collapsed if he had not. The outgoing administration must continue to allow him such leeway. If radical reform is not coherently pursued then it will be extremely difficult for ministers in countries such as Britain to defend, let alone extend, their aid to Seoul. The IMF will be intimately involved in South Korean affairs for months, if not years, to come. It must have complete confidence in this set of politicians. Outside funding cannot continue indefinitely. South Korea will not have another chance.

A MORE MODERN MONARCH

Her Majesty moves sensitively with the times

In her Christmas broadcast the Queen wrought a tapestry of "joy and woe . . . woven fine". A year in the nation's life which saw an upsurge of hope and a pitch into despair was reflected in the experience of the nation's first family, whose private tragedy became the country's. Yet although the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was the year's defining moment and one which precipitated a difficult period for her, the Queen has also had causes for consolation, indeed celebration, to reflect in her address. Balancing the recognition of loss with the cause for cheer is the task any reviewer of this year of extremes must face and Her Majesty did so in appropriate fashion, by dwelling first and most poignantly on grief before giving thanks for blessings and giving voice to hope.

The nature of yesterday's broadcast, the first produced by Independent Television News after the termination of the BBC's traditional monopoly, marked another stage in the sensitive modernisation of the monarchy. The producers created an altogther more accessible package by skilfully blending moving documentary footage of the Princess of Wales's funeral with more cheering actuality from the Commonwealth conference and Her Majesty's golden wedding, all interwoven with the traditional address to camera. The tone of the broadcast bespoke a restoration in monarchical confidence after a sad year.

The recovery in public esteem which the monarchy enjoys after the anguished September days was most strikingly underlined by the results of our *MORI* poll on Christmas Eve which saw the Prince of Wales restored to widespread popularity and republicanism once more the cause of a receding minority.

The strength of public support and affection for the Royal Family was, in any case, powerfully visible last month in the reaction to the Queen and Prince Philip's golden wedding celebrations. The graceful manner in which the occasion was marked, the sense of domestic solidity and, in particular, the self-deprecatory humour of both Queen and Duke in public speeches entrenched public loyalties. In her comments on another Union, that between the nations of this kingdom, Her Majesty affirmed, as is her right, the hope that devolution would prove that diversity and unity are complementary and not conflicting. The monarchy, and the Union, are both more adaptable than their critics hope and yesterday's broadcast will have underlined how resilient both institutions remain to the changing currents of time and chance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for council on health priorities

From Professor K. G. M. M. Alberti and Professor M. H. Lessof

Sir, The White Paper on *The New NHS* (report, December 10; letters, December 17) is very welcome but has understated the difficulties which the health service now faces.

There is no longer any country in the world, however rich, which can afford to provide all its citizens with access to the increasing range of services, medical procedures and drugs which are becoming available. For that reason priorities must be chosen, but the White Paper gives no guidance on the way in which these choices are to be made.

What is needed is a more focused discussion on the ethical principles and the criteria which will, for example, help the new primary care consortia to determine their priorities in an equitable fashion. There also needs to be an increase in public discussion, understanding and acceptance of the fact that the NHS cannot meet all expectations.

The Royal College of Physicians has proposed that the Government should support the establishment of an independent council for health care priorities to advise on these issues. With the new developments that are proposed in the White Paper, it would be a pity if this opportunity were to be missed.

Yours faithfully,
K. G. M. M. ALBERTI
(President),
MAURICE LESSOF
(Chairman, Working Party on *Health Care Priorities*),
Royal College of Physicians,
Regent's Park, NW1 4LE.
December 22.

Westminster ruling

From Mr C. J. Macdonald-Brown

Sir, The Westminster "homes for votes" scandal was one which by its very nature involved dishonesty, cynical manipulation and sleaze on a level not seen for a long time.

I suppose it must have been obvious to all involved that Dame Shirley Porter might, because of the way her financial affairs are organised, be able to avoid paying any surcharge. Your report (December 20) that she might escape having to pay more than a fraction was therefore no surprise.

I do not know what powers the district auditor had, but it is worth noting that for over 20 years the English courts, in civil proceedings, have been granting "asset-freezing" orders to stop this sort of situation arising.

We appear to be left in this case, after a seven-year inquiry costing some £3 million, with a court ruling which may be worth little more than the paper it is written on. I hope I am wrong.

Yours faithfully,
CHARTERS MACDONALD-BROWN,
Gouldens (solicitors),
22 Tudor Street, EC4Y 0JJ.

From Mr G. M. Beresford Hartwell

Sir, Political memories are surprisingly short, and sauce for the goose ought to be sauce for the gander. In Westminster, council homes were sold in the hope of creating or preserving a majority.

Isn't that precisely why many council houses were built in the first place?

Yours faithfully,
G. M. BERESFORD HARTWELL,
40 Brambledown Road,
Wallington, Surrey SM6 0TF.
geoffrey@hartwell.demon.co.uk
December 20.

Hidden pockets

From Mr Chris Maund

Sir, I understand the praise for the girls of Tiffin Girls' School for their initiative in marketing knickers with pockets (report, December 11; letter, December 18), but I am concerned about the use to which these garments may be put by some clubgoers.

The police and door security have recently been working together to keep illegal substances out of clubs — a difficult enough task as it is, and one these garments will make impossible, providing the perfect hiding place.

It is illegal for door security to check the undergarments of anyone entering a club. Anyone wearing these garments knows full well they can put whatever they like into these pockets, and that they cannot be searched. This makes a mockery of the work of the police and door security.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS MAUND,
45 Hainault Street, London SE9 2EF.
chris.maund@gecm.com

Catt and mouse

From Dr J. Caroe

Sir, What a delightful present Mrs Catt gave us (letter, "Stocking fillers") on Christmas Eve. She quotes the mouse poem, " 'Twas the night before Christmas . . . ", thus neatly providing the answers to *five* clues in today's Times Two crossword. Thank you!

Yours etc,
JOHN CAROE,
20 Prideaux Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2NB.
caroe@btinternet.com
December 24.

Sexist taunting in the Commons

From the Director of the Fawcett Society

Sir, The criticism by some Tory women MPs that those of their Labour counterparts who complain about sexism in the Commons are "naive, spoilt and oversensitive" (report, December 13) is misguided. It is not that these women cannot cope with sexist taunting, rather that they should not have to.

The public-schoolboy culture of UK politics, with its pointless rituals and childish insults, is disliked by women from all parties. For too long women MPs complained privately, but felt that they had to "put up and shut up" in order to prove that they were as tough as the men. Under the playground rules which still govern the behaviour of many MPs the correct response to a bully is to stay quiet, or hit back (letter, December 19).

The dramatic increase in the number of Labour women MPs seems to have given them a confidence to challenge these assumptions. Rather than feeling they have to show how well they can fit in with the "yah boo" culture, they are questioning whether our democracy might be a bit more healthy if our MPs were required to conform to normal standards of workplace behaviour.

It is unfortunate that some Conservative women still believe that they have to demonstrate how tough they are by claiming that they can cope with the taunts and insults. Challenging the acceptability of this behaviour is a far tougher task.

However, Conservative women will eventually have to face up to the sexism in their own party if they are going to increase their numbers.

Yours sincerely,
SHELAGH DIPLOCK,
Director,
The Fawcett Society,
Fifth Floor,
45 Beech Street, EC2Y 8AD.
December 19.

Assessing impact of climate change

From Sir John Houghton, Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution

Sir, Dr Wilfred Beckerman ("Warming to global change", article, December 11; see also letters, December 15) mentions certain benefits of climate change while ignoring its main impacts.

These are likely to include a rise in sea level (causing substantial problems in many coastal regions and displacing tens of millions of people) and changes in the hydrological cycle (leading to more frequent and more intense droughts and floods).

Dr Beckerman also ignores economic studies which indicate that the likely cost to the world of damage from climate change and adaptation to it is substantially greater than the cost of sensibly organised programmes of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. His selective arguments fail to do justice to the complexity of the climate change issue.

The Kyoto agreement is much more than the "mouse" Beckerman suggests: to have an agreement at all over an issue with such major global implications is a real achievement. It is a beginning, not an end.

In seeing the challenge of climate change more as an opportunity than a threat, and in forging an appropriate partnership with industry, the UK Government is demonstrating an effective way forward, based on honest, balanced and thorough appraisals of the science, technology, economics and equity considerations involved.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOUGHTON,
Chairman, Royal Commission on
Environmental Pollution,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BZ.
December 22.

Millennium matters

From Mr Richard Weston

Sir, Simon Jenkins mounts a predictably spirited defence of the New Millennium Experience ("There's nothing to hide", December 20), but does little to allay my doubts about the enterprise.

The 1851 and 1951 exhibitions were certainly designed at short notice, but their aims were clear: the former to celebrate Britain's commercial might (and outdo the French), the latter to raise spirits and introduce a modern lifestyle after years of war, rationing and "Utility" goods.

The Crystal Palace was a compelling demonstration of industrialised building and helped usher in a new vision of space; the vast marquee at Greenwich is a technological *tour de force*, but will barely merit a footnote in architectural history.

"Hundreds of Britain's young designers" entrusted with an exhibition budget of hundreds of millions certainly ought to produce something sensational, but the fear remains that it will be no more than that. Great exhibitions, like great works of art, are driven by clear ideas, not sensational packaging of themes which, from what we have been told so far, a focus group of ten-year-olds could have put together in an afternoon.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WESTON,
57 Lamborne Road,
Leicester LE2 6HQ.
December 20.

From Professor D. Robertson Smith

Sir, According to an astronomer (report, December 22) we are now in the year 2009. Can we now forget the Millennium Dome?

Yours faithfully,
D. ROBERTSON SMITH,
1 Bishop's Wood,
Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire OX44 9HA.

From Mr C. A. Beaton

Sir, Has Professor Giovanni Baratta found an answer to the millennium time-bomb?

Yours faithfully,
CALLUM BEATON,
La Fosse de Bas,
St Martin's, Guernsey GY4 6EQ.
callumabeaton@psionworld.net
December 22.

Keeping in touch

From the Very Reverend Dr John Southgate

Sir, More useful than a mobile telephone, for those lost on moor or mountain (letters, December 12 and 15), and about the same size, would be a Magellan GPS (global positioning system) navigating device, such as the one I use, costing under £200.

Those who wander in isolated places would readily know where they were and which way to travel, and they would not need to be rescued. They would have no line rental or call charges to pay — all they need is a few AA batteries.

In such circumstances lost souls can look to the heavens for guidance and direction to back up their prayers for survival.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SOUTHGATE,
39 Churchfields, Hethersett,
Norwich, Norfolk NR9 3PH.

From Mr Andrew Ivey

Sir, Mr David Oldbury (letter, December 15) says that the wilder the country, the slimmer the chances are that his mobile phone will work. He is probably referring to the widely used cellular phone.

Equipped with an albeit more costly (from £3,000) Inmarsat portable satellite phone, Mr Oldbury, or any other school party leader, could make calls from anywhere in the United Kingdom.

This service simply requires a clear sight of the sky for calls to be made to any country from 98 per cent of the world's land mass, including the most remote locations such as deserts and rainforests.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW IVEY
(Marketing manager),
Inmarsat,
99 City Road, EC1Y 1AX.
andrew—ivey@inmarsat.org
December 16.

Advertising ban

From Ms Jayati Srivastava

Sir, The decision of the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre to ban two television advertisements by Christian Aid as "political" is deplorable (report, December 15).

The purpose of the campaign, of which these advertisements are part, is simply to highlight the mayhem caused by Third World debt which causes extreme suffering to millions of people, particularly children, in the poorer countries. To ban them is a denial of the right to be heard by the thousands of innocent and vulnerable victims who are suffering in silence.

It appears to me that it is the BAAC decision which is political, not the advertisements.

Yours sincerely,
JAYATI SRIVASTAVA,
2 Nansen Village,
21 Woodside Avenue,
London N12 8AQ.
December 17.

On a rising note

From Mr Royer Slater

Sir, I notice an increasing tendency for people to raise the pitch of their voices at the end of statements of fact, as though asking a question. Rarely encountered a couple of years ago, incidences have increased and the majority of my business telephone callers even introduce themselves and their companies with this inflection, as though appealing to me for corroboration.

Does this indicate an increasing lack of confidence to *affirm*?

I am, certainly, yours faithfully,
ROYER SLATER,
79 Hermitage Woods Crescent,
Woking, Surrey GU21 1UF.
December 23.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Is this the final Boxing Day hunt?

From the Archbishop of Wales and others

Sir, Friday is St Stephen's Day, when by tradition the Church recalls the death of the first Christian martyr. It is also the busiest day of the year for hunting with hounds. Approximately 300 hunts will take place on Friday. Without intervention, by this time next year between 15,000 and 20,000 more foxes will have been killed by hunting.

As Christians we believe that how we treat the rest of Creation is every bit as much a question of morality as unemployment or homelessness. We also remember the example of the 8th-century French bishop, St Hubert, who was promoted by his Christian vocation to renounce deerhunting as a sport.

We welcome the Boxing Day publication of *A Christian Case Against Hunting* by the Christian Socialist Movement, which represents an important contribution to this ethical debate.

We recognise that the Government has many pressing issues to deal with; but we hope and pray that time will be found for legislation to ensure that this will be the last Boxing Day when the savage and terrifying death of an animal is treated as a sport.

Yours faithfully,
†ALWYN CAMBRENSIS,
†OLU ABIOLA,
†JOHN AUSTIN BAKER,
MAXWELL CRAIG,
†RICHARD DOVER,
†COLIN HULME,
†DOMINIC READING,
†MICHAEL ROFFEN,
DONALD SOPER,
c/o Christian Socialist Movement,
Bradley Close, White Lion Street, N1.
December 23.

From Bishop Hugh Montefiore

Sir, I was saddened to be asked by some of my fellow Christians to add my name to a letter to you as publicly joining part of the movement to stop foxhunting. I have not done so.

I should have thought that, on any showing, we have a prior duty to prevent stress and suffering by domesticated rather than wild animals, since wild species in the course of nature have been subject to predation, while domesticated species have not.

So I would pay more attention to the predominantly urban abolitionists of foxhunting if they gave priority in their publicity to the stress suffered by millions of hens in batteries rather than the comparatively few foxes in the hunting field.

But then, battery hens are shielded from the public gaze; and, what is more, they provide urban multitudes with cheap eggs and poultry, while foxes do not. And what about the countless turkeys consumed over Christmas?

Yours faithfully,
†HUGH MONTEFIORE,
White Lodge, 23 Bellevue Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW17 7EB.
December 23.

Reindeer recruit

From Mrs Joanna Haines

Sir, At least Rudolph can be proud of his name (letters, December 17, 23).

For years Donner flew noisily with his flashy partner, Blitzen. However, modern editions of Clement C. Moore's poem have turned him into Donder — a reindeer once full of sound and fury, now signifying nothing. Who better to provide space to restore Donner's dignity than The Thunderer?

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA HAINES,
74 Gordon Road, W5 2AR.
December 23.

Hard cases

From Mr John Griffiths

Sir, Your headline today, "GP code reveals hard cases", reminds me of our family doctor in the 1930s. Like many doctors then, he ran his own dispensary which made up his own prescriptions. One of these, for hypochondriacs, was simply "ADT".

Any Damn Thing usually consisted of water, peppermint, Epsom salts and colouring.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GRIFFITHS,
28 Palace Road,
East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9DL.
December 20.

From the Reverend Julian Hardyman

Sir, At the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham, the code NBFI occasionally appears on patient notes. It communicates clandestinely that the patient is "Not Bad For Ilkeston".

Yours etc,
JULIAN HARDYMAN,
96 Arbury Road, Cambridge CB4 2JF.
jhardyman@ibm.net

From Dr R. L. Marshall

Sir, Though not of the profession, I did hear from a doctor in medicine of an entry of considerable though covert honesty: GOK — God Only Knows.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. MARSHALL,
Holly Cottage, Woodhouse Eaves,
Leicestershire LE12 8RN.
December 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
NORFOLK
December 25: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Prince of Wales is to visit Sri Lanka in February for the country's 50th anniversary independence celebrations. He will also visit Nepal and Bhutan early in the same month.

The official visit to Sri Lanka is going ahead despite continued fighting in parts of the island between security forces and the Tamil Tigers.

On October 15, a bomb left in a truck exploded next to a hotel in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, killing at least 16 people and injuring more than 150.

Current Foreign Office advice to travellers is to "minimise" time spent in the city as "further incidents cannot be ruled out". Visitors are also advised not to visit the north and east of the country.

Birthdays today

Professor D.H. Barlow, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 48; Captain George W. Burnet, Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian, 70; Professor Sir Colin *Campbell, Vice-Chancellor,* Nottingham University, 53; Sir Alastair Dunnett, former chairman, Thomson Scottish Petroleum, 89; Sir Christopher Hewetson, former President, Law Society, 68; Mr Rohan Kanhai, former cricketer, 62; Mr Eric Kinder, former chairman, Smith and Nephew, 70; Professor Thea King, clarinettist, 72; Miss Jane Lapotaire, actress, 53; Mr *Dermot* Murnaghan, broadcaster, 38; Mr David Perry, former chairman, John Waddington, 60; Mr Denis Quilley, actor, 70; Miss Anna Scher, founder, Anna Scher Theatre, 53.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Gray, poet, London, 1716; Lord George Gordon, Protestant agitator, London, 1751; Charles Babbage, pioneer of calculating machines, Totnes, 1792; Dion Boucicault, actor and dramatist, Dublin, 1822; Henry Miller, novelist, New York, 1891; Mao Zedong, Chairman of the People's Republic of China 1949-59, *Shaoshan*, Hunan province, 1893; Victor Hely-Hutchinson, composer, Cape Town, 1901.

DEATHS: Claude Helvetius, philosopher, Voré, 1771; John Fothergill, physician, London, 1780; *John Wilkes, political* reformer, London, 1797; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeologist, Naples, 1890; Roger Keyes, Baron Keyes, Admiral of the Fleet, Buckingham, 1945; James Stephens, novelist and poet, London, 1950; Harry S. Truman, 33rd American President 1945-53, Kansas City, 1972; Sir Lennox Berkeley, composer, 1989.

Marie and *Pierre Curie discovered* radium while experimenting with pitchblende, 1898.

The German battleship *Scharnhorst* was sunk by the Royal Navy, 1943.

Appointment

The Rev Dr Chris Wigglesworth, general secretary of the Board of World Mission of the Church of Scotland, who retires at the end of April, 1998, has been appointed Principal of St Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak, Birmingham, from May.

Churchill's railway carriage and Queen Mother's coach to go on show

£4m plan to extend railway museum

By Paul Wilkinson

THE only private rail coach ever to be used by a Prime Minister *for trips around the* country is to become the centrepiece of a new £4 million extension of the National Railway Museum.

On show with *it* when the new wing opens will be two coaches from the Royal Train, used during the war by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Work on the wing *will* start in the new year with the aid of a £2 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and it should open during the summer of 1999.

The carriage was part of George VI's Royal Train and was given to Winston Churchill by the monarch for his own use during the Second World War.

Richard Gibbon, a senior engineer at the museum in York, said: "It was a mark of *the esteem in which the* King held the Prime Minister. No other Prime Minister, before or since, has *had* the use of such a private coach. King George *obviously* knew the morale-boosting effect of Winston Churchill turning up on a visit."

However Andrew Scott, the *head of the museum, recalls* one occasion when his visit in the carriage almost had the opposite effect.

He said: "The Prime Minister travelled overnight from London by rail for an early morning visit to Coventry after it had suffered yet another devastating attack by Nazi bombers. But his train arrived in the city before the *Great Man had finished his* breakfast. He insisted on completing his meal and ordered the train to halt outside the station until he *had consumed his last slice* of toast.

"While the civic dignitaries who had turned out to welcome Winnie tapped their feet on the platform, other traffic into the mainline station *backed up along the track* behind the Prime Minister's train.

"His driver protested, but was told not to move and Mr Churchill's personal bodyguard was sent on to the *footplate to ensure that he* complied. One report suggested a trial of strength between the two with the security man clinging tightly to the brake as *the driver tried to* edge his train into the station. Eventually breakfast was concluded and the visit continued without further problems."

The carriage was built in 1920 for the chairman of the London and North-Western *Railway, but within three* years the company had amalgamated with three others to form the London Midland and Scottish and the luxurious coach became surplus to requirements. Such was its *high quality and level of* comfort that it was included in the fleet of rolling stock from which the Royal Train was drawn.

Some 60ft long, the saloon is in three sections: at one end is a glass-windowed lounge with sofas, armchairs and occasional tables and at the other is a windowless, wood-panelled boardroom with a conference table and eight seats. The central section contains a single bedroom, kitchen and bathroom with a cubicle for a personal attendant.

Churchill had the coach fitted with a radio link so that he *could still direct the war* effort while he was away from Whitehall on morale-boosting visits around Britain.

After the war the carriage returned to the Royal House*hold and later had* a new chassis and bogies fitted to allow it to travel at the faster speeds of modern trains. It remained in service with the Queen until *about ten* years ago and has been in store since then.

The gallery will be built on the site of an original locomotive repair yard and the museum plans to reopen part of the maintenance area with a viewing gallery so that visitors can see restoration work in progress.

The wing will also include some unusual memorabilia including a company coat of arms from the King's Cross to Edinburgh night express which was derailed on September 10, 1906, after mysteri*ously racing through* a scheduled stop at Grantham, killing 14 including the two-man crew. In spite of an exhaustive Board of Trade investigation no explanation for the crash was ever found.

Also on show will be a cutaway model of an 1890s passenger coach which was built specially as a defence exhibit in a murder trial to show that *the accused could* not possibly have fired the fatal shot.

The displays will also include parts from an early locomotive lost 150 years ago in a sailing ship wreck off the Western Isles. It was being transported across the Atlantic from *its* Glasgow builders to the rail network of Nova Scotia *but* the vessel foundered in a storm.

Michael Bailey, a diving enthusiast, discovered the wreck by accident ten years ago. *He* has brought several pieces to the surface and continues to search for more. It was so well preserved that screwholes were still filled with their original tallow protection.

Mr Scott said: "We have great plans for the new wing and see it becoming an exciting place for a wide spectrum of visitors from families and schools to railway enthusiasts and social historians."

The Queen Mother's bedroom in the railway carriage in which she travelled around Britain during the war

Plain on the outside but luxurious within — the coach given to Churchill by King George VI

The old motive power depot at York, the site of the planned extension to the rail museum

University news

Oxford
Jesus College
Prizes and awards

Firsts in Honour Moderations/Distinctions in Prelims:
Samuel Adlen (Physics), Christine Ashton (Physics), *Claire Hamilton* (Engineering Science), Cheun Ho (PPE), Dzinia Kabambe (Mathematics), *Sarah Langford* (Mathematics), Mary McCrindle (Human Sciences), Jenny McCullough (English), Joseph Moorhouse (Physics), Harry Morrison (Modern History), Edward Rackham (Chemistry), Christina Sturge (Human Sciences), Samuel Thomson *(Modern Languages)*, David Tiltman (Modern History), Richard Winslade (Physics).

All the above have been awarded a College Prize of £75 in books.

College prizes for the award of a university prize to:
Hon Wai Lam, Gibbs Prize in Chemistry; Christopher Seward, Gibbs Book Prize; Annabel Todd, Thesis Prize in Chemistry; Hon Wai Lam, Unilever Physical Chemistry Practical Prize, 1996-97; Glen O'Hara, Gladstone Memorial Essay Prize, 1996; Katrina Smith, Renwick Vickers Dermatology *Prize*, 1996 *(joint award)*; Asheesh Sharma, Martin Wronker Prize in Pharmacology, 1996.

College prizes have been awarded *to the following students:*
J N L Baker Prize in Geography jointly to Claire Gifford and Siwan *Davies; Bleackley Prize in Modern* Languages, Nathanael Wei; Bowers Award, Peter Chew; Marion Bradley-Prize in Physics, *jointly to* Robert Hinch and Daniel Jeans; Davies Prize (for best performance in a Final Honour School), Jonathan Leather, Lawrence Moon, Annabel Todd; Anthony Fletcher Awards, Emma Vardy, Aldo Guiducci, Cameron Mabon, Andrew Jones, *Edward Carlin*, Taina Galis; Dehqani-Tafti Prize, jointly to Mui-Jun Poh and Michael Beadle; Dehqani-Tafti Travel Scholarship, Cameron Mabon; Genner Prize in Classics, Jenny Burgess; Green Studentships, Robert Crow, Oliver Gadney, Helen Mills, Victoria Vasey, Madelaine Watson; E C Hart, Andrew Jones, Stuart Cowley; Maddison Prize in Modern Languages, Guy Weston-Smith; Paget Awards, jointly to Siwan Davies and Claire Gifford and Sarah Lee; D G Ritchie Prize in PPE, Samantha Salvia; Junior Vaughan Prize in Mathematics, Gareth Smith; Welson Prize in Law, *Nicholas Scola; C F Williamson* Prize in English, Jago Russell; Woodward Prizes in Chemistry, Christopher Seward, Simon Chewter, Edward Rackham.

Elections
To Scholarships:
Samuel Adlen (Lady Manners School, Bakewell, Derbyshire), Katharine Gooding (Sharnbrook *Upper School, Bedford*), Claire Hamilton (Wallace High School, Co Antrim), Cheun Ho (National Junior College, Singapore), Dzinja Kabambe (Westcliff High School, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex), Amanda King (Ranelagh School, Bracknell, Berkshire), *Sarah Langford* (Sutton High School, Surrey), Mary McCrindle (Chelmsford County High School), Jenny McCullough (Sullivan Uper School, Co Down), Joseph Moorhouse (Barnard Castle School, Co Durham), Owain Morgan (Lancaster Royal Gram*mar School*), Harry Morrisson (Norwich School), Edward Rackham (Barton Peveril College, Hampshire), Rachel Sheffrin (Newstead Wood School, Orpington, Kent), Christina Sturge (The Mount School, York), Mui-Jun Tan (Hwa Chong Junior College, Singapore), Samuel Thomson (Millfield School, Somerset), David Tiltman (Manchester *Grammar School*), Andrew Ward (St Bede's College, Manchester), Kathleen Weeks (The Ecclesbourne *School*, Duffield), Nathanael Wei (Sir Frank Markham Community School, Milton Keynes (for *1998-99*). *Richard* Winslade (Norwich School).

To a Meyricke Scholarship:
Christine Ashton (Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls, *Gwent*), *Johanna Waters* (Gorseinon College, Swansea).

To a Dehqani-Tafti Memorial Scholarship:
Mui-Jun Tan (Hwa Chong Junior *College, Singapore*)

To an Organ Scholarship:
Alexander Flood (Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Bucks).

To Exhibitions:
Mark Bass (Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Bucks), Terence Bennett (The Gryphon School, Dorset), *Samuel Cumpsty (Altrincham* Boys Grammar School, Cheshire), Aldo Guiducci (Bournemouth School), Naomi Ling (Sutton High School, Sutton, Surrey), Catherine *Milledge* (Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls).

To a Meyricke Exhibition:
Timothy Bennett (Monmouth School, Gwent), David Cowhig (St Albans RC High School, Gwent), Leah Griffiths (Neath College, West Glamorgan), Alan Moss *(Bishop Gore School, Swansea (for* 1998-99).

To Old Members' Exhibitions:
Alexandra Ashton (Bolton Sixth Form Centre), Simon Joyce (Poole *Grammar School, Dorset)*.

To an Arteaga Exhibition in Spanish:
Samuel Thomson (Millfield School, Somerset).

To Graduate Scholarships:
Emma Despland, MSc, Laval University, Canada; Daniel Hullah, BA; Daniel Kapitan, BA; Andrew May, BA; Andrew Smith, BA.

To the Old Members' Graduate Scholarship:
Charalambos Neophytou, BA.

To the East European Graduate Scholarship:
Daniel Smilov, MA, University of Sofia, Bulgaria.

To the Sir John Rhys Scholarship:
Ingo *Mittendorf, MA*, Philipps-Universität, Marburg, Germany.

Queen's University of Belfast

The university has won funding of more than £5.6 million, from a wide range of sources, including the Department of Economic *Development's Industrial* Research and Technology Unit, industry, charities, research councils and the European Union.

The funding is for studies across the university's disciplines, from science, engineering and medicine to agriculture, the humanities, law *and education. Grants were also* awarded to the university's Institutes of Criminology and Criminal Justice, European Studies, Irish Studies, and Telemedicine and Telecare.

More than £1 million was awarded to the School of Clinical *Medicine for a range of projects*, including research on bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, leukaemia, *multiple sclerosis, schizophrenia* and cancer.

The university's Schools of Agriculture and Food Science, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Mathematics and Physics were also awarded substantial grants, receiving £748,780, £731,436 and £719,453 respectively.

The studies to receive funding *included research on public opinion* and the Northern Ireland talks by Dr Colin Irwin of the university's *Institute of Irish Studies, who* was awarded £10,000 from the Rowntree Trust.

Appointments
To the Chair of Haematology:
Dr Terence Lappin, formerly an Honorary Reader in Haematology *at Queen's*

To the Chair of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery:
Dr David Marsh, formerly a Senior Lecturer in Orthopaedic *Surgery at Manchester University*

Conferment of Honorary Titles
Honorary Professor in the School of Clinical Dentistry:
Professor William Douglas, Academic Director of the Minnesota Dental Research Centre for Biomaterials and Biomechanics

Honorary Lecturer in the School of Pharmacy:
Dr Claire Anne Gilligan, Director of Pharmaceutical Development, Galen Holdings;
Dr Michael Mawhinney, Pharmacy Inspector, Department of Health;
and Dr Clare Passmore, Director of Scientific Affairs, Galen *Holdings*.

Membership of senate
Belfast City Council has nominated Councillor Michael McGimpsey to membership of the *Senate*.

Latest wills

Hyman Fine, of London N2, left estate valued at £7,849,661 net.

Derek Leslie Smith, of Sowerby Bridge, West *Yorkshire*, left estate valued at £2,375,994 net.

Marion Hope Rattey, of Dunkeswell, Honiton, Devon, left estate valued at £2,866,342 net.

She left £20,000 each to St Paul's Church, Honiton, the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Family, Honiton, Save the Children Fund, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Devon Trust for Nature Conservation, National Association of Youth Clubs, Mencap, Friends of National Libraries, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Devon Girl Guides Association, Plymouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Children's Home, National Society for Cancer Relief, Helen House Children's Holiday Fund, Shaftesbury Society, RSPB, National Trust, Barnardo's, National Library for the Blind, RNLI, RAF Benevolent Association, Princess Margaret House Foxlease, Lyndhurst, Hampshire, Woodland Trust, and CPRE; £15,000 to the Girl Guides Association; £10,000 each to Torquay Division Girl Guides, Devon Boy Scouts and Honiton Division of the Girl Guides. Shares in her residuary estate to the National Trust, Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Children's Hospice South West at Barnstaple.

Robert Murray, retired solicitor, of Worthing, West Sussex, left estate valued at £761,014 net.

Rosemary Kate Thompson, of Lewes, East Sussex, left estate valued at £518,492 net.

Eric James Newgas, of Brighton, East Sussex, left estate valued at £802,332 net.

Harold Francis Archer, of Egham, Surrey, left estate valued at £542,909 net.

Decia Jean Crawford, of Hampton, Middlesex, left estate valued at £738,362 *net*.

Arthur Edward Burree, of Taunton, Somerset, left estate valued at *£903,954 net*.

Nesting puffins tunnel into history

By *Norman Hammond*
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

NATURE and culture have *come into conflict on Fair Isle*, where puffins are threatening an Iron Age fort. Their nesting tunnels are reaching deep into the stratified layers of the *fort's history, scrambling the* message of the past.

The Landberg fort, on a promontory overlooking Fair Isle's harbour, has a complex *set of defences dating from the* last few centuries BC, with multiple ditches and ramparts defending the inhabitants against any aggressor bold enough to *journey* from *Orkney or Shetland, or from* further afield on the Scottish or Scandinavian mainlands. There may also have been a blockhouse behind the *rampart*.

The puffins, who occupy empty rabbit burrows when they can, and otherwise dig their own, are making a mess *of the hitherto* well-preserved remains. "Most people are aware of the damage that rabbits can do to archaeological sites, but some may *not know that puffins also dig* nest tunnels for themselves," said Dr Noel Fojut of Historic Scotland.

Puffins are protected by law, and Landberg is also a *site of special scientific interest* (SSSI), so Dr Fojut has had to negotiate with Scottish Natural Heritage before disturbing them. "Fortunately, only a few *pairs of the 30,000 resident* puffins had to be excluded: the holes were blocked in the spring before they arrived".

The burrows reach down at *least a metre, and Professor* John Hunter of Birmingham University has carried out rescue excavations before the site *is* left to the birds. The *most surprising discovery* was a rock-cut, paved subterranean chamber: such chambers *may* have been cool storage for food or used as *boltholes in time of danger*.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I wait for the Lord with longing: I put my hope in his word. My soul waits for the Lord more eagerly than watchmen for the morning. *Psalm 130 : 5,6*

BIRTHS

BUTLER-SLOSS - On December 1st, to Sarah and Robert, a son, Samuel Robert John, a brother for Lucy.

COOKE - On December 23rd, to Penny (née Norton) and Gary, a *laid* back first son, Harry Peter Alfred.

GREEN - On December 22nd, to Helen and Alex, a son, Simon John, a brother for Alastair and Henry.

STEPHENSON - On 13th December 1997, a treasured son Nathaniel Curtis to Jillian (née Moir) and Philip. With thanks to all at Torbay Hospital Maternity Unit.

WARD - On 21st December 1997, to Ian and Judith, a beautiful daughter, Daniella Lauren.

WIPPELL - On December 18th, to Emma (née Wigmore) and Mark, a cheerful son, Jack Gabriel Risdon.

DEATHS

CRANSTONE - Isabel May, widow of Bryan, sister of Audrey, Joan and Hugh and much loved mother of David, peacefully in Sobell House on 22nd December 1997 aged 80 years. The Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday 30th December at 3.15 pm in the Memorial Chapel, Oxford Crematorium. Flowers may be sent, or if desired, donations for Sobell House, c/o Reeves & Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4TE.

DALRYMPLE-CHAMPNEYS - Norma Hull (née Lewis), widow of Sir Weldon Dalrymple-Champneys Bt. Died peacefully on 21st December 1997, aged 95 years. She will be greatly missed. Funeral Service at St. Michael's Church, *Lonsdale* Road, Summertown, Oxford, on Friday 2nd January, at 2.00pm. Enquiries to Reeves & Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford, telephone 01865 242529. A Service of Thanksgiving will be arranged for a later date.

DURRANT - Madeline A. S. Passed away at 2.45 pm on *Friday 19th December 1997* at St George's Nursing Home, Byfleet. Funeral Service will be held at Guildford Crematorium Compton, Surrey, on Monday 5th January 1998 at 11.30 am.

LYNE - Air Vice Marshal Michael *Dillon*, CB, AFC, DL, on 21st December, after a short illness. Deeply loved and missed by Joy and his children, grandchildren and family. Funeral at Coleby Parish Church, Lincs, at 11am on Wednesday 31st December. Memorial Service at a later date. Donations preferred to RAF Benevolent Fund. Enquiries to Priestley and Cockett, 64 Boultham Park Road, Lincoln. Tel: (01522) 520604.

RICHMOND - On 22nd December after a long *illness*, Lady Anne Moreen aged 73. Funeral arrangements later.

SOUTHAM - On 17th December 1997, aged 89, Kenneth Swire MRCS LRCP, devoted husband of Gladys, father of Jill and the late Bridget, and grandfather of Simon. Private cremation. Donations, if desired, to RNIB.

SPALDIN - Suddenly in London on *Friday* 19th December 1997 aged 28 years Charlotte Elizabeth, darling daughter of Garry and Liz. Close long-term *girlfriend* and best friend of Ian. Treasured sister of Emma and Adam, dear granddaughter *of Gramps* and sister-in-law of Mark. Service to be held at All Saints Church, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on Tuesday 30th December 1997 at 1 pm, followed by private cremation. Family *flowers* only. Donations in lieu to Meningitis Research Foundation, 13 High Street, Thornbury, Bristol BS12 2AE.

STOPFORD - On December 18th 1997 peacefully in hospital, Patricia Ann (née Gleeson) aged 68 years. Much loved mother of Jonathan and Sarah and sister of Richard and Jennifer. Funeral St Catherine's Catholic Church, Wimborne, Dorset on Tuesday December 30th at 10.30 am. Enquiries to Nicholas O'Hara Funeral Directors tel: 01202 882134.

FOR SALE

THE TIMES - 1791-1997 other titles available. Ready for presentation - also "Sundays". Remember When. 0181-688 6323 or Call Free 0800 520000

FLATSHARE

FLATMATES London's foremost (Est 1970) Professional flat share service. 0171-589 5491

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

FLIGHTSEATS
Now booking Summer 98
Retail agents for ATOL holders, ABTA C8267
ABTA members for 18 years
prices from:
Alicante £59 Turkey £129
Malaga £59 Malta £89
Faro £59 Greece & Isles £99
Palma £59 Geneva £79
Mahon/Ibiza £60 Israel £139
Tenerife £75 Orlando £169
Lanzarote £75 Canada £229
Funchal £89
0990 239904

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd 0171-730 2201. ABTA 25703 IATA/ATOL 1355.

DELTA WORLD WIDE
SYDNEY £577 HONGKONG £459
PERTH £532 RIO £449
AUCKLAND £462 MEXICO £343
BANGKOK £411 NEW YORK £227
SINGAPORE £415 LOS ANGELES £268
BALI £439 WARSAW £165
JAKARTA £459 PRAGUE £197
PRICES INCLUDE TAX
0161 272 8433

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A LEGACY MEANS A LOT TO THE LIMBLESS
Help us help the limbless.
Please make a donation now and a legacy later to ensure we can continue our vital work. We promise not a penny will be wasted.
Enquiries to: DFT TTC
British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association,
185 High Road, Chadwell Heath,
Essex RM6 6NA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS
need our love and practical support,
not just today but everyday.
Sadly, money cannot buy healthy kidneys but it can make life worth having.
Donations urgently needed by
The British Kidney Patient Association,
Bordon, Hants, GU35 9JZ.
B.K.P.A.

COURT & SOCIAL
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES
Over the New Year period
the following deadlines will apply:
Notices for:-
Tuesday December 30th, should be received by noon on Monday December 29th; Wednesday December 31st, by 5pm on Monday December 29th; Thursday and Friday January 1st and 2nd 1998 by 5pm on Tuesday December 30th 1997; and Saturday and Monday January 3rd and 5th by 2pm on Wednesday December 31st.
Please send Court Page announcements by post/fax to:
Mrs J. Noonan, Court & Social Advertising, The Times,
PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XS.
Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax 0171 782 7725
Please include in all correspondence:
a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent,
a daytime and home telephone number and address.
Advertising Rate is £15.28 per line inc VAT.

LEGAL NOTICES

Levinson Books Limited
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, K.P. Berry, FCA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs Leonard Curtis & CO, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 19th December 1997. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address. All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.
Dated this 19th December 1997
K.P.Berry, FCA, Liquidator.

EUROSYSTEMS U.K. LIMITED Registered Number 1257722. Trading Name EUROSYSTEMS U.K. LIMITED. Nature of Business: Computer Maintenance Contracts. Trade Classification: 36. Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver(s): 18 December 1997. Name of Person appointing the Administrative Receiver(s): National Westminster Bank Plc. Names of persons appointed: Stephen Cork and David Ralph, 345 Rickmansworth Road, Watford WD1 7HL. Office Holder Nos: 8627 & 5930. Joint Administrative Receivers.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878 OR
FAX: 0171-481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

هكذا من الإصل

OBITUARIES

EDDIE CHAPMAN

Eddie Chapman, wartime spy, died on December 11 aged 83. He was born on November 7, 1914.

Safecracker, jailbreaker, wartime double agent, lounge lizard and latterly health farm owner, Eddie Chapman had a life of the sort which makes a barely believable, and bad, movie — as indeed it did. Yet, amid the welter of semi-fictional details which constituted his curriculum vitae, there was a solid core of truth.

He was, indeed, a highly successful, though somewhat erratic and eventually untrustworthy, British-run double agent in the Second World War. This was a career which, improbably, he owed to his having been in jail in the Channel Islands at the time of the German occupation. This, in turn, was the result of a reasonably successful career as a gentleman criminal, which had followed a spell in the Coldstream Guards. In a life which seemed almost a parody of itself, Chapman was the archetypal hero-villain/charmer-rat, and remained so almost until the end of his life. He was, needless to say, immensely attractive to women.

Edward Donald Chapman (as he was never thereafter to be known) was born in Sunderland and grew up on Wearside. He began his working life in the shipbuilding trade and then, in the desperate state of the economy in the 1930s, joined the Coldstream Guards. Although this gave him some cachet in later life (he looked a plausible Guards' officer although he in fact served in the ranks) he and military life did not suit. He tended to go AWOL for long periods and was eventually discharged.

From then until the outbreak of the Second World War his career was like something out of an Ealing Studios film, in which gentleman burglars puff on ebony cigarette holders and sip fino sherry (or Krug champagne), probably with their arms round glamorous women, while contemplating their next job. He was actually quite good at this line of work, good enough to be hired in the 1960s as a sort of honorary crime correspondent of *The Sunday Telegraph*, whose readers he then proceeded to warn against the attentions of people like him.

Cinemas were his favourite target, since they carried plenty of cash overnight as they did not, in those days, empty their tills of the evening's take. As a safe-cracker his favoured device was a condom full of gelignite. He made enough money to be able to frequent the West End nightspots which were his natural haunt. Although a compulsive talker — and boaster — he led a charmed life. His suits, his grooming and his suave manner made him seem an unlikely villain.

He was, of course, bound to get arrested, but on the first occasion he was, fleeing southwards after a bungled job in Edinburgh, he was merely remanded on bail. He fled to Jersey where he might have been safe. But he was quite incapable of giving up his old habits and, in March 1939, for blowing a safe in St Helier, to steal the paltry sum of £25, he was arrested and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

In the undemanding atmosphere of incarceration there, his natural proclivities soon asserted themselves. Stealing a suit from the prison governor's son (with his gentlemanly bearing, he had managed to wangle a job as personal servant to the governor), he scaled a 50ft wall surrounding St Helier jail and jumped to liberty. This liberty did not last long. Improbably equipped with a shrimping net, he was discovered by police on Plémont beach on the northwest of the island. After a short, sharp struggle, described by onlookers as "a first-class scrap", he was overpowered and taken back into custody. He was sentenced to an additional 12 months' imprisonment, this time with hard labour.

From left, Chapman, Billy Hill and the boxer George Walker discuss the mysterious blaze on Hill's yacht *Flamingo*, in a Soho pub

This might have been the beginning of a weary time for Chapman. But deliverance was at hand in the unlikely shape of the invasion of the Channel Islands by the Germans. In exchange for his liberty, Chapman offered to conduct sabotage missions in Britain for the Germans who were only too ready to believe that someone of his background was in a highly disaffected state of mind. He was given the codename Fritz and in December 1942 was parachuted into Britain.

His mission was to blow up the de Havilland factory near Hatfield where the Mosquito was being assembled.

On landing, he contacted the police and demanded to be put in touch with Scotland Yard. The police passed him on to MI5 to whom he told his story. Rechristened Zig-Zag by British Intelligence, he became a double agent, his first task being to help to double-cross the Germans over the "destruction" of the Hatfield factory. This required elaborate deception. Chapman had to be seen to have "stolen" the explosives for the job. Luckily his previous career made it easy for him to accomplish this, and an explosion which gave the appearance of having caused great damage to the factory was engineered. Deceived by the results of their aerial reconnaissance, his Abwehr masters were highly impressed.

It was now the Double Cross committee's aim to get him back to Germany so that he could be briefed for further "sabotage" work against Allied targets. He worked his way in a British ship to neutral Portugal where he was given a bomb to plant by a German agent. Instead, he turned it over to the ship's master, and then staged a disappearance under cover of a dockside brawl.

But his espionage career had already passed its apogee. Later in the war he was sent back to Britain by the Germans and again came under MI5's wing. But in London he took to associating with his old underworld cronies. His indiscreet behaviour in the West End nightspots he was able to frequent regularly, thanks to the handsome payment he had received from the Germans for his first mission, did not endear him to his MI5 controllers. Eventually British Intelligence dispensed with his services.

By this time the war was drawing to an end and he managed to see it out without falling foul of the Abwehr.

For their part, the British authorities agreed to overlook his past criminal record, as a reward for his wartime services. In spite of official attempts to prevent him, he eventually published an account of his wartime exploits, *The Eddie Chapman Story* (1953), which in turn spawned a rather messy film, *Triple Cross* (1967), starring Christopher Plummer and Yul Brynner.

Although he was frequently in trouble with the law throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Chapman managed to stay out of jail. In the 1950s he was a close friend of the self-styled "King of Soho", the club owner and underworld boss Billy Hill. With Hill, he took part in a number of exotic-sounding — but mainly, in fact, merely ridiculous — contraband and kidnapping adventures in the latter's motor yacht *Flamingo*, which was at one stage wanted by police and coastguard services from one end of the Mediterranean to the other. On one occasion she mysteriously caught fire in Toulon harbour, giving rise to suspicions that she had been sabotaged.

But Chapman survived his dubious connections unscathed, and in 1994 featured in a BBC television programme *Underworld*, as one of the elder statesmen of the criminal fraternity. He also ran a successful health club in Hertfordshire.

Chapman is survived by his wife Betty, and a daughter.

CHRISTOPHER ST JOHN ELLIS

Ellis, left, and the Rev Christopher Courtauld, with whom he founded the Ocean Youth Club, aboard the latter's "gentleman's" yacht *Duet*

Christopher St John Ellis, GM, sailor and youth leader, died on December 18 aged 77. He was born on June 20, 1920.

AN ENEMY of convention, Christopher St John Ellis devoted much of his life to challenging the established order, usually with great humour. It was typical that his George Medal should have been awarded for defusing a wartime bomb he had been ordered not to touch, in a Plymouth hospital. It was also said he had dismantled an explosive device with a teaspoon while in a state of semi-consciousness in Malta, where he lay in a near-coma for a month after taking the full blast of an Italian stick bomb. His bravery helped to keep the harbour clear for Allied access to Suez.

Chris Ellis's love of sailing stemmed from a childhood discovery that life at sea relieved the lung problems from which he suffered all his life: whooping cough, chronic asthma and the bouts of pneumonia (to which he finally succumbed). At 16 he sailed his father's 36-ft Bawley single-handedly down the English Channel without permission — and later conceived ocean cruises as a cure for ills of a more social kind.

After the war he devoted much of his life to working with teenagers first at Radley, but then from more deprived backgrounds. And he later flouted convention, to become one of the first Eton and Oxford-educated headmasters of a secondary modern. He worked tirelessly to create opportunity for the less privileged. Suspicious of organised religion, he believed passionately in the human spirit, and in the Ocean Youth Club created an environment in which the potential of some of the most excluded young children could be realised.

In 1950 he made the first of two transatlantic voyages — the first with Peter and Susan Pye in *Moonraker*. In his account of the trip, Peter Pye recalls Ellis trying to eat a whole tree of bananas, in a vain effort not to waste the fruit which had all ripened at once. Inspired by these great pioneers of ocean cruising, Chris Ellis conceived the idea that the skills required to navigate a passage — often in extreme conditions — could be the perfect antidote to antisocial behaviour.

Some years later he made the second trip to America — but this time his own 53ft pilot cutter *Theodora* was crewed entirely by school-leavers. In 1956 the Warden of Radley gave permission for *Theodora* to be entered in the first Tall Ships Race from Torbay to Lisbon. She lost her topmast in the Bay of Biscay — but two years later she won her class in the second Tall Ships contest.

These voyages were the genesis of the Ocean Youth Club — founded in 1960 with the Rev Christopher Courtauld, whose turn-of-the-century gentleman's yacht *Duet* made up its first fleet with *Theodora*. To date, a hundred thousand children have sailed with the OYC.

By the 1960s Ellis's pioneering attitude to social work brought him to Stevenage, where urban planners for the new town had not reckoned with a generation of bored young men who were ripping up cinema seats. As at Radley, where he responded to a roving brief with inspirational extracurricular ideas and expeditions, Marlow Secondary Modern gained its first rowing boat under his direction (bought with his own money), and was later to produce one of Britain's great Olympians: Steve Redgrave.

Ellis's skills as an educationist had not gone unnoticed in more illustrious circles too: in 1955 he had turned up at Balmoral in the unlicensed Austin lorry which had already made him famous at Radley, to tutor the young Duke of Kent. It was said that the hair of a pupil had turned white overnight after its brakes failed (as they often did) while Ellis was overtaking between a bus and a lorry.

Chris Ellis was all his life a great inventor. His devotion to technology arose from his wartime frustration with the Special Services Unit. By 1945 operatives like him were being assigned to Heath-Robinsonian inventions such as landing craft intended to sink and then reinflate. The experience impressed upon him the importance of good design, of which he became a pioneer in the academic field.

Having taught Peter Cook in the Marionette Club at Radley he went on to introduce design to the curriculum at Eton, where he was an inspirational force in the School of Mechanics. He oversaw tremendous projects from theatrical set building to yacht-fitting and it was here that a team built a clock out of macaroni. He later became a keen correspondent to the letters page of various newspapers on the importance of technology in education. His own boathouse at Eton and then on the Isle of Wight were filled with craft he had himself designed. And time is kept in the Ellis household by a clock which as well as telling the time of day, the day of the week and the date of the calendar month, tells the date of the lunar month, phases of the moon, the local tide and its rise and fall.

Chris Ellis was a great draughtsman, and friends would find him shading with one hand and measuring perspective with the other — for he was ambidextrous. His earliest architectural drawings won him childhood prizes — but he continued to love buildings, and later told a friend he had willingly risked his life to defuse a bomb in St Paul's Cathedral.

He loved music, breaching the siege of Malta to have his flute delivered by submarine; the same instrument lies in its case at the house in which he lived on the Isle of Wight, to this day. Friends would often be commandeered as members of a makeshift orchestra beside the fire — where every visitor would have to contribute in some way to the Toy Symphony. His wife Gill would often take the lead with the triangle. She was the helmswoman of his remarkable life; together they made an inspirational team.

He is survived by her and their three sons and a daughter.

TOSHIRO MIFUNE

Toshiro Mifune, Japanese film actor, died in Tokyo on December 24 aged 77. He was born in Tsingtao, China, on April 1, 1920.

IN A screen career that was shaped by the great director Akira Kurosawa, Toshiro Mifune became the best-known of Japanese actors outside his own country. Kurosawa launched Mifune's international career with *Rashomon*, which caused a sensation at the 1951 Venice Film Festival, and opened up to the West the great riches latent in contemporary Japanese cinema.

But Mifune is even better known in the West for his role in *The Seven Samurai* (1954), which, in its turn, spawned John Sturges's *The Magnificent Seven*, of 1960. Mifune's towering screen presence (which included rugged good looks which were in marked contrast to the refined, almost delicate, features of many of his contemporaries) made him much more intelligible to Western audiences than many other distinguished Japanese actors (he was often dubbed the "Japanese John Wayne"), and his versatility gave him a popularity all over the world. This was underpinned by his success in the popular television series *Shogun*.

His range enabled him to inhabit both explosive and violent roles, and to switch to the quietly ironic. And he was as at home in epic versions of Japanese history, peopled by warlords and noble peasants, as he was in wry contemporary situation comedies, featuring mildly disillusioned modern man.

Born in China to Japanese parents, Toshiro Mifune spent his childhood and youth outside Japan. He was called up for service with the Japanese imperial forces during the Second World War and worked as an aerial photographer. When he first came "home" to Japan after the war it was to a devastated country with few opportunities for a man of his skills.

Mifune in his best-known international role as one of *The Seven Samurai* (1954)

He went for a technical job at the Toho film production company, but at that time directors were looking for a new look from Japanese leading men and his CV was passed to the casting department. His ability to stage the most dramatic bursts of anger came to the attention of Kurosawa, who cast him in his film *The Drunken Angel* of 1948.

But it was *Rashomon*, an enigmatic tale set in medieval Japan, which propelled Mifune, who played a cynical bandit, and Kurosawa on to the international stage. It went to the 1951 Venice International Film Festival where it was hailed as a revelation and won the Grand Prix. (It never had quite such an ecstatic welcome in Japan itself.) It also won an Academy Award for the best foreign film of its year. It was later reshaped as a — spectacularly bad — Hollywood western, *The Outrage* (1964).

Sichinin no Samurai (*The Seven Samurai*) extended the reputation of both director and actor, particularly in Hollywood, where its debt to the western did not go unnoticed. Though set in 16th-century Japan, the resemblance of its plains to the lawless wide-open spaces of the American West was immediately apparent. Its progeny, *The Magnificent Seven*, which transmutes the samurai into seven American gunslingers who protect a Mexican village from bandits, had its original's energy, but none of its strange beauty.

Mifune's most distinguished work was done for Kurosawa, for whom he appeared in 16 films, but he went on to make more than 140 movies overall, becoming a popular international property as no other of his contemporaries did. His roles in Kurosawa's *Yojimbo* and *Red Beard* won him Best Actor Awards at the Venice film festivals of 1961 and 1965.

He was also a natural to provide "authentic" Japanese interest in such different Hollywood war films as the pretentious *Hell in the Pacific* (1969), in which he played a Japanese naval commander stranded on a Pacific atoll with Lee Marvin's American pilot, and *Midway* (1976), a sprawling panorama of the decisive battle of the Pacific war, in which he was pitched in against the likes of Charlton Heston, Henry Fonda, Robert Mitchum, Glenn Ford and James Coburn.

In the meantime he had, in 1963, formed his own production company, Mifune Productions, which made a number of films. He had a shot at directing himself; but his one film, *The Legacy of the Five Hundred Thousand*, was a resounding box-office flop.

His popularity in the West was increased even more when he was given a central role in the American television series *Shogun* (1980), a somewhat rambling, though visually opulent, adaptation of the James Clavell novel of that name. It won an Emmy award in 1981 for being the Outstanding Limited Series of the year.

Reflecting on his protégé's unique qualities in his autobiography, Kurosawa recalled: "It was above all the speed with which he expressed himself that was astounding. The ordinary Japanese actor might need ten feet of film to get across an impression: Mifune needed only three feet."

Toshiro Mifune is survived by two sons.

ON THIS DAY

December 26, 1871

This is a favourable view of an institution which the public saw as its last refuge. George Lansbury said of one in 1892 that it was clean and polished, "but of goodwill, kindness, there was none . . ." George Sims's Christmas Day in the Workhouse *(1903) was a powerful indictment of the system.*

CHRISTMAS UNDER THE POOR LAW.

When each London parish was the unit of administration as well as of assessment, Christmas under the Poor Law was, in fact, Christmas in the workhouses. Then each workhouse was a home for all old and young, sick and hearty, those who became inmates as a test of poverty and those who did so through helplessness — whether that helplessness arose from tender youth, old age, contagious disease, weak mind, or any other form of malady. Yesterday's festival, by the operation of the legislation of late years, found all this changed. London workhouses still contain many aged, many sick, many helpless from other causes of helplessness, but the young are no longer trained to pauperism, contagious diseases are no longer housed in workhouse walls and the imbecile no longer crowd the wards in London. All these classes are separated and separately looked after, and though ties which formerly bound the well-to-do parishioner to take a personal interest in the care of those dependent upon the rates have been somewhat loosened, yet a passing review of what has been done and what is doing will show that alike in the interests of humanity, in the proper care of the sick poor, as well as in a statesmanlike dealing with floating pauperism, the change has had a beneficial influence upon the present and future of London.

In no London workhouse yesterday nor in the many schools raised out of the London rates were the usual Christmas bounties forgotten. Altered in character as many of them are, still visitors from the outside world kept up the custom of looking to the well-doing of the rate-supported poor on this day. In no parts of London is this old usage more closely adhered to than in Marylebone, in the workhouses of the city of London, and in St George's, Hanover-square, places in which there are special circumstances which admit of this custom. In the new institutions under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, too, now this year brought fairly into work, the customs of the season were as far as possible observed. At Caterham Asylum, where there are, in round numbers, 1,600 imbeciles, and at Leavesden Asylum, where there are 1,620, all the festivities of the season were allowed — within a judicious limit. These two large establishments take the place of the dingy wards in confined workhouse buildings in the midst of London, with occasional visits from the overworked medical man whose sorry duty it was give daily attendance to the persons suffering from varied maladies within the workhouse walls. The happy change these institutions have provided to the classes for whom they were designed — namely, the harmless and incurable imbeciles who were formerly in the workhouse — is to be seen in the fact that, though deemed incurable, under the genial treatment of a cheerful place, many have recovered from a seemingly hopeless imbecility. Each of these institutions has an efficient medical and administrative staff, and the affairs of each are guided by committees, appointed by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and approved by the Local Government Board . . .

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Ten die as hurricane hits Britain

■ Hurricane force winds raged across Britain on Christmas Eve and yesterday leaving five people dead, five French fishermen feared drowned in the Irish Sea, thousands of people without power and scores of roads blocked by fallen trees.

As the emergency services battled to cope, a fresh wave of storms with winds gusting up to 70 mph swept across London and much of southern England last night............**Pages 1, 3**

Princes greet crowds at Sandringham

■ Prince William and Prince Harry showed maturity beyond their years as they coped with their first Christmas since the death of their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales. They smiled and chatted to elderly and disabled people in the crowds outside St Mary Magdalene church on the Sandringham estate............**Pages 1, 2**

Blair support

Tony Blair has thrown his full authority behind the senior Cabinet minister whose son was arrested by police over newspaper allegations of supplying cannabis............**Pages 1, 4**

Sales bonanza

Record takings in the shops on Christmas Eve point to another bonanza as sales get into full swing today, retail analysts believe............**Pages 1, 9**

Navy celebrates

Two thousand miles from the Christmas dinner tables they expected to be gracing, the crew of *HMS Invincible* shrugged off their disappointment and celebrated the festive season somewhere off Cyprus............**Page 2**

Seamen rescued

Six seamen aboard a British cruise ship were rescued from the icy waters of the New York City harbour after a lifeboat fell overboard during a safety drill**Page 3**

Surprise baby

When the twinges in her abdomen were diagnosed as labour pains Julie Anglin was thunderstruck. She had not even realised she was pregnant............**Page 5**

Hunt ban call

As hunting supporters gather for their biggest day of the year today an archbishop and six bishops declared their support for a ban on the sport............**Page 6**

Ancient music

On the 50th anniversary of the invention of the transistor it is being said that antique valve amplifiers are better designed for playing thumping music..**Page 7**

Carey's message

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, called for a more caring society, which he said should be achieved by Christian values............**Page 8**

Woody Allen's bride

The film director Woody Allen, whose on-screen neuroses are mirrored often in his overwrought personal life, has married Soon-Yi Previn, the adopted daughter of the actress Mia Farrow............**Page 10**

Kaunda arrested

Kenneth Kaunda, the 73-year-old former President of Zambia, was arrested at his home in Lusaka early yesterday and imprisoned under the country's state of emergency laws............**Page 11**

Mexican slaughter

At least three suspects are being questioned over theslaughter of 45 defenceless Indian peasants in southern Mexico but as yet none has been charged............**Page 12**

Jackal questioned

Carlos the Jackal will be questioned over a 1982 terrorist attack in the first of many inquiries that will represent his only break from the monotony of prison ..**Page 13**

On the trail of a defeated Tory

■ New Labour women MPs who accuse the Tories of sexism and rudeness can take comfort from a television documentary: things could have been worse. *Campaign Confessions* to be shown this weekend reveals a degree of arrogance from one defeated Tory that makes many of his victorious colleagues look like models of humility............**Page 2**

DES JENSON

Forty hardy swimmers took the plunge yesterday for the annual Christmas Day race in the Serpentine, Hyde Park

BUSINESS

Rogue offer: Yasuo Hamanaka, the trader whose dealings cost Sumitomo Corporation $2.6 billion (£1.55 billion), has offered to pay his former employer $800,000 that he had in a Swiss account..... **Page 40**

Granada attacked: Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy, has attacked Granada for making special payments which take the package for Gerry Robinsion to nearly £1 million............**Page 40**

Kindly Gates: Microsoft and Goldman Sachs, regarded as two of the most demanding of American employers, have scored highly in *Fortune* magazine's list of the 100 best employers............**Page 37**

Korea aid: The IMF rode to the rescue of South Korea by agreeing a $10 billion package............**Page 40**

SPORT

Racing: One Man aims to complete a hat-trick in the King George VI Chase at Kempton today but, after heavy rain, a surprise is on the cards............**Pages 26, 27**

Football: Manchester United, on course for their fifth title in six years, will hope to increase their four-point lead in the Premiership today when they entertain struggling Everton............**Pages 22-24**

Rugby union: Saracens, riding high in the first division, will be trying to extend their unbeaten seven-match run at home to Leicester today............**Page 26**

Cricket: A place in the final of the women's World Cup is at stake when England play New Zealand in Madras today. The winners meet Australia............**Page 28**

ARTS

Seasonal dance: The Royal Ballet celebrates Christmas with a double bill that brings together Ashton's skating ballet *Les Patineurs* with the cute cuddly creatures of *Tales of Beatrix Potter*............**Page 31**

Year in the arts: "On the news pages we gawped at headlines of arts organisations in turmoil," writes Richard Morrison. "Yet when we turned to the arts pages we found that there was scintillation everywhere"............**Page 32**

Past sound: The budget-priced record label Naxos launches historic performances given new life by computer wizardry............**Page 32**

Young painters: A new book reveals how the daubings of children have inspired much great modern art............**Page 33**

FEATURES

After the party: You wake up looking and feeling like someone who was put to death a couple of thousand years ago. Jane Shilling discusses the dreaded and dreadful festive hangovers............**Page 14**

Party time: How can you keep going during the party season? Jason Cowley finds out how to survie the fun?............**Page 15**

[illegible]

Revival: Six of the best ways to tone up your skin............**Page 14**

[illegible]

Tackling dylexia: When Hazel Martin discovered that her son was dyslexic it was a relief: she had been worried he was a slow learner............**Page 34**

Leading edge: A comprehensive for girls in London's East End has introduced a feature usually associated with boys' schools: leadership training............**Page 34**

[illegible]

The willingness to judge with all the meticulous hair-splitting of real justice a man accused of spurning the most basic elements of humanity is one of the emblems of a civilised society. This discipline sometimes yields muddled and confusing results and the verdict in the second Oklahoma City bombing trial is one such outcome

— *The Washington Post*

TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

■ SCOTLAND THE RAVE
The auld Hogmanay traditions are giving way to the new, north of the border

■ GOING, GOING
The world's landmarks are already selling out for the millennium

RADIO & TV

Preview: *The Canterville Ghost*: Oscar Wilde's comic tale (ITV, 4.10pm). *Salome*: a Royal Opera production of the Richard Strauss masterpiece (BBC2, 2.50pm) **Review:** *Eastenders* is finishing the year in cracking form, says Mathew Bond............**Pages 38, 39**

OPINION

History is now

This Christmas season *The Times* remembers the old policies and listens to the antique drum of 1948, a year with a claim to be the hinge of this century............**Page 17**

Won last chance

Outside funding cannot continue indefinitely. South Korea will not have another chance............**Page 17**

Modern monarch

Balancing the recognition of loss with the cause for cheer is the task any reviewer of this year of extremes must face and Her Majesty did so in appropriate fashion............**Page 17**

COLUMNS

MATTHEW PARRIS

In a 70-mile drive we passed no other traffic. From time to time our driver would reach into the dashboard and pull out a white plastic bottle, from which he would take a swig. This was 97 per cent proof Bolivian drinking-alcohol .**Page 16**

JOHN LLOYD

Labour, when soliciting for votes, turned a cold eye on these street activities and rumbled about tougher laws but nothing has been done and probably nothing will. For the streets appear to be winning this small but important struggle............**Page 16**

PHILIP HOWARD

If *you* are feeling bad, think of Gunter Burpus of Bremen. "In retrospect, I admit that it was unwise to try to gain access to my house by the catflap," said Burpus, a 41-year-old gardener............**Page 16**

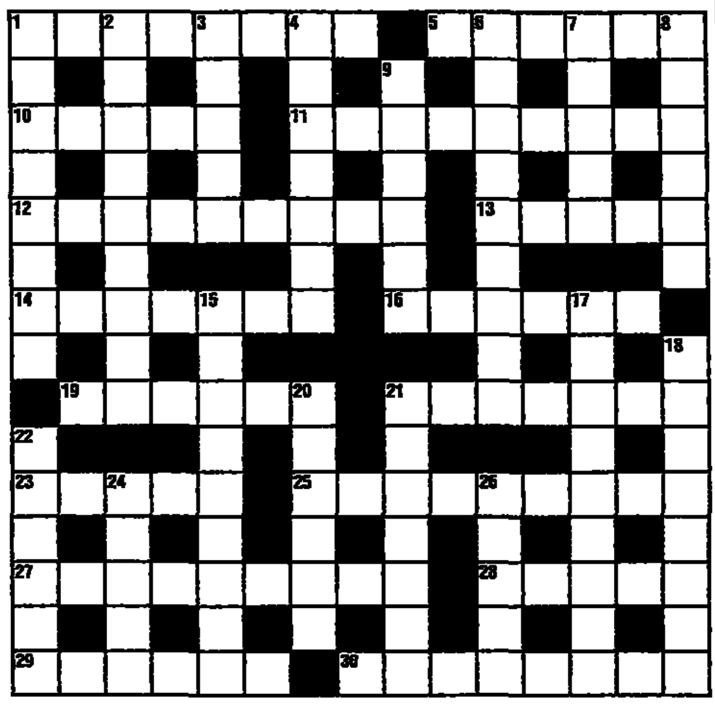
OBITUARIES

Eddie Chapman, wartime spy; **Christopher St John Ellis**, youth leader; **Toshiro Mifune**, Japanese film actor............**Page 19**

LETTERS

Health priorities; Commons taunting; hunts; climate change; millennium; *homes for votes*; *mobile* phones; advertising ban.... **Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,672



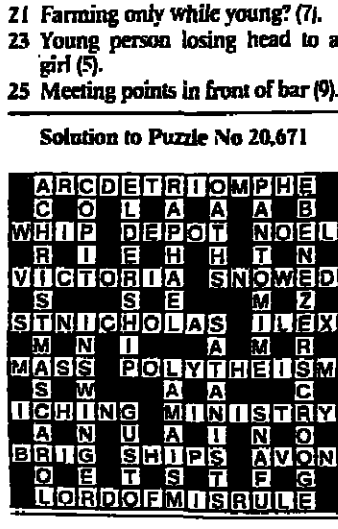
ACROSS

1 Fatty's middle hurt getting fastened (8).
5 Start to flourish in a reasonable business (6).
10 Put out some medicine you said should be swallowed (5).
11 Ordering a new flower border (3,6).
12 Lady hoards money in huge quantities (9).
13 Old writer's personal mannerisms (5).
14 Risk having to accept surcharge finally on that account (7).
16 About a couple of lines, introduction to yours truly (6).
19 Sound, just sound (6).
21 Farming only while young? (7).
23 Young person losing head to a girl (5).
25 Meeting points in front of bar (9).
27 Turn out books I'd held, being careful with money (9).
28 Misrepresent poor orphan (5).
29 In record, offence likely to go down (6).
30 Ordered spy's cover to change — a plucky old thing? (8).

DOWN

1 Reject ruling, a heartless order to imprison bishop (8).
2 Bolshie workers fast surrounding policemen (9).
3 Conservative has joined opponents for division (5).
4 Serious attention given to snug home (7).
6 Prevent everything being covered by trees (9).
7 Family man's partner is cheerfully confident after discarding jack (5).
8 Joint appeal about drug (6).
9 One pondering about old cat (6).
15 Mention a rewritten article included in issue (9).
17 Extremely stupid, at any rate (9).
18 Knowing parts of Crete have been captured in camera (8).
20 Not quite the finest place in Egypt (6).
21 Roman historian sends bill in to Emperor (7).
22 Primate left after church service (6).
24 Threateningly approaches textile machinery (5).
26 Some amount I left in till (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,671



Times Two Crossword, page 40

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1997. Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kiling Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Friday, December 26, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions	0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions	0336 401 410
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 746
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 388
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	N. Ireland	416 341
Wales	416 335	London	416 342
Midlands	416 336	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
East Anglia	416 337		
N. West	416 338		
N. East	416 339		
Scotland	416 340		
Metfax Marine inshore leisure forecasts	416 398		

World City Weather The Met. Office

153 destinations world wide
6 day forecast

by Phone dial	0336 411216
by Fax (index page)	0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars	0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

Automobile Association Developments Ltd. Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 50p per minute at all times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.06 am	Sun sets: 3.57 pm
Moon sets 2.05 pm	Moon rises 4.15 am

New moon December 29

London 3.57 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.07 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 3.43 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.54 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.25 pm to 8.21 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a colder, brighter day, with rain soon clearing the east to leave sunny spells and showers. The heaviest showers will be in the north and west with the best sunny periods in the south and east in afternoon. N Ireland and western Scotland chilly and breezy with sunny intervals and heavy showers, which will turn wintry on hills later. Showery in Irish Republic; sunny spells in east. E Scotland may start dull and damp; brighter later.

Tonight, breezy with showers in the west and north, but the east will be dry with clear spells leading to a slight frost by morning.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S England:** Blustery showers at first. Drier and brighter from midday with scattered showers. Strong SW wind Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E Anglia, E, Cent N, NE England, Midlands:** Showery rain in North East at first, but brighter with just scattered showers by afternoon. Strong NW wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Ch'nl Is, SW, NW England, Wales, Lakes, IoM, N Ireland:** Bright, fresh, showery. Some showers heavy; hail, thunder possible. Fresh W wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** Sunny intervals, heavy showers; hail, sleet, thunder possible later. Fresh NW wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** Showery rain in North East at first, but mostly bright and fresh with scattered showers. Strong NW wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** Bright; frequent showers in west. Sunny periods in east. Fresh NW wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** Bright, sunnier with fewer showers tomorrow, but rather cold with an early frost in places. On Sunday, another batch of rain will spread from southwest, although Scotland may stay dry.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

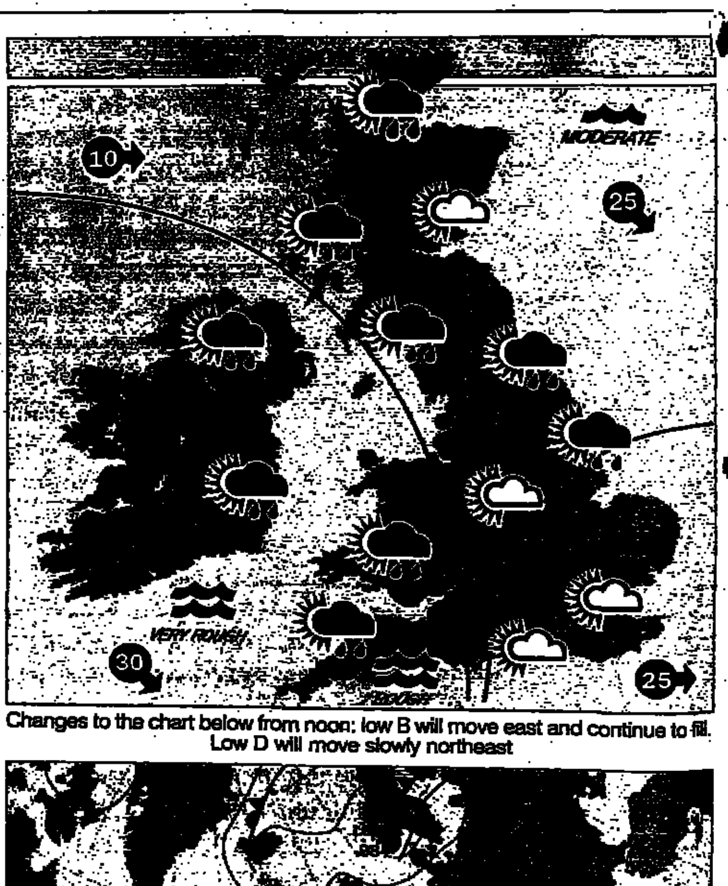
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.5	0.61	6	43	r	Isle-of-man	1.4	0.35	10	50	sh
Anglesey	0.4	0.25	11	52	sh	Isle-of-wight	X				
Aspatria	0.8	0.42	10	50	sh	Jersey	0.9	0.25	13	55	sh
Aviemore	-	0.33	5	41	r	Kinloss	-	0.11	5	41	r
Belfast	1.0	0.51	10	50	r	Lerwick	0.5	0.37	6	43	sh
Birmingham	X					Leuchars	X	0.39	6	43	r
Bognor R	X					London	0.2	0.23	13	55	r
Bournem'th	-	0.25	12	54	sh	Lowestoft	0.1	0.09	11	52	r
Bristol	0.2	0.26	12	54	r	Manchester	1.2	0.03	11	52	sh
Buxton	0.9	0.11	8	46	sh	Margate	0.2	0.06	13	55	r
Cardiff	0.9	0.17	11	52	r	Minehead	0.5	0.33	11	52	r
Clacton	0.3	0.13	11	52	sh	Newcastle	-	0.13	8	46	r
Cleethorpes	X					Newquay	1.0	0.12	12	54	g
Colwyn Bay	0.5	0.37	12	54	r	Norwich	0.3	0.12	11	52	sh
Cromer	0.4	0.08	10	50	r	Oxford	0.5	0.23	11	52	r
Dunbar	X					Penzance	X	0.25	13	55	g
Eastbourne	-	0.26	13	55	r	Poole	-	0.25	13	55	r
Edinburgh	-	0.38	6	43	r	Prestatyn	X	0.24	12	54	r
Eskdalemuir	-	1.14	7	45	r	Ross-o-wye	0.5	0.31	12	54	sh
Exmouth	0.9	0.41	15	59	sh	Saunton Snd	-	0.10	12	54	g
Falmouth	1.8	0.35	13	55	r	Scarboro'	0.2	0.11	11	52	sh
Fishguard	0.2	0.12	10	50	sh	Shrewsbury	1.2	0.11	11	52	sh
Folkestone	X					Southport	0.6	0.19	11	52	sh
Glasgow	-	0.97	6	43	r	Swanage	0.4	0.17	13	55	sh
Guernsey	0.8	0.17	13	55	sh	Teignmouth	1.0	0.48	12	54	sh
Hastings	0.1	0.20	12	54	r	Tenby	0.5	0.12	13	55	sh
Hayling I.	0.1	0.20	12	54	r	Tiree	-	0.46	8	46	r
Herne Bay	-	0.10	X	X	sh	Torquay	0.5	0.19	13	55	sh
Hove	X					Tynemouth	-	0.37	9	48	r
Hunstanton	X	0.07	11	52	c	Weymouth	1.5	0.35	13	55	r

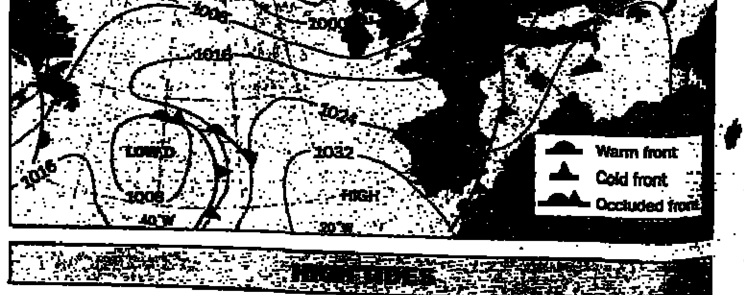
ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	c	C'phagn	2	36	r	Malaga	16	61	s	S Paulo	X		
Akrotiri	18	64	s	Dublin	11	52	c	Malta	17	63	r	Salzburg	5	41	c
Alex'dria	20	68	f	Dubrovnik	13	55	s	Melb'rne	19	66	f	Santiago	30	86	s
Algiers	17	63	f	Faro	15	59	s	Mexico C	20	68	f	Seoul	9	48	s
Amst'dm	12	54	c	Florence	13	55	s	Miami	27	81	f	Sing'por	31	88	f
Athens	16	61	s	Frankfurt	8	46	c	Milan	7	45	s	St'kholm	-3	27	c
B Aires	25	77	f	Funchal	20	68	c	Montreal	-3	27	X	Strasb'rg	9	48	c
Bahrain	20	68	s	Geneva	9	48	f	Moscow	-7	19	c	Sydney	24	75	s
Bangkok	33	91	f	Gibraltar	16	61	s	Munich	7	45	r	Tangier	17	63	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Helsinki	-3	27	c	N Delhi	11	52	fg	Tel Aviv	19	66	s
Barcelona	13	55	s	Hong K	17	63	f	N York	4	39	f	Tenerife	23	73	s
Beirut	18	54	s	Innsbrck	6	43	s	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tokyo	9	48	f
Belgrade	5	41	c	Istanbul	8	46	f	Naples	15	59	s	Toronto	2	36	c
Berlin	3	37	r	Jeddah	28	82	s	Nice	13	55	s	Tunis	16	61	c
Bermuda	21	70	s	Jo'burg	17	63	f	Oslo	-1	30	sn	Valencia	16	61	s
Biarritz	16	61	s	Karachi	X			Paris	13	55	s	Vanc'ver	2	36	f
Borde'x	12	54	f	L Angels	14	57	s	Peking	1	34	s	Venice	6	43	c
Brussels	13	55	c	L Palmas	22	72	s	Perth	27	81	s	Vienna	6	43	c
Budapest	5	41	s	Le Touqet	14	57	f	Prague	4	39	r	Warsaw	2	36	c
Cairo	20	68	s	Lisbon	11	52	fg	Reykjavik	6	43	f	Wash'ton	7	45	c
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	7	45	s	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wel'ngton	17	63	X
Ch'church	22	72	X	Luxembg	9	48	r	Rio de J	33	91	f	Zurich	8	46	c
Chicago	2	36	f	Luxor	23	73	s	Riyadh	25	77	s				
Cologne	10	50	c	Madrid	6	43	s	Rome	14	57	s				
Corfu	15	59	f	Majorca	16	61	s	S Fr'isco	11	52	s				

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low B will move east and continue to fill. Low D will move slowly northeast



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10.47	5.8	23.39	6.1	Leith	-	-	12.16	4.5
Aberdeen	11.15	3.8	23.24	3.7	Liverpool	08.44	7.6	21.07	7.9
Avonmouth	04.13	9.9	16.43	10.5	Lowestoft	08.33	2.3	19.55	2.3
Belfast	08.35	2.9	20.37	3.2	Margate	09.08	4.0	22.03	4.1
Cardiff	03.59	9.3	16.29	9.8	Milford Haven	03.30	5.2	15.58	5.8
Devonport	02.48	4.4	15.09	4.6	Newquay	02.30	5.3	14.57	5.7
Dover	08.27	5.5	21.09	5.5	Oban	03.38	3.1	16.11	3.3
Dublin (N Wall)	09.21	3.5	21.36	3.7	Penzance	01.57	4.4	14.23	4.6
Falmouth	02.19	4.2	14.40	4.4	Portland	04.40	1.4	16.34	1.4
Greenock	10.22	2.9	22.06	3.1	Portsmouth	09.03	4.0	21.25	3.9
Harwich	08.50	3.2	21.39	3.4	Shoreham	08.30	5.0	21.07	4.9
Holyhead	08.10	4.6	20.24	4.8	Southampton	08.23	4.0	20.41	3.9
Hull (Albert D)	03.20	7.0	16.19	7.0	Swansea	03.18	7.3	15.51	7.6
Ilfracombe	03.12	7.0	15.42	7.4	Tees	00.38	4.4	13.26	4.4
King's Lynn	03.29	5.1	16.25	5.3	Walton-on-N	08.51	3.3	21.38	3.5

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Exmouth, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 1.14in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 1.8hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

Under the weather?
The Samaritans 0345 909090

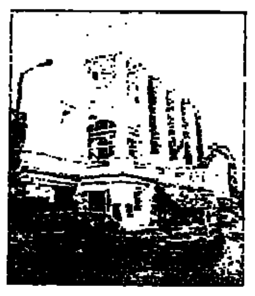
هكذا من الأول

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY

SPORTS QUIZ
Recall the events of 1997 and win festive prizes
PAGE 25



ARTS
Triumphs and fiascos: a year in review
PAGE 32

BUSINESS
Why Granada's £1m Robinson is under fire
PAGES 36-40

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 38, 39

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26 1997

Two brighter shades of grey

Desert Orchid and One Man have more in common than colour and talent. **Richard Dunwoody** compares two great chasers

Head-to-head: Dunwoody is perfectly placed to match Desert Orchid, right, and One Man, left, who is favourite to complete his King George hat-trick today

Comparisons between racehorses are invariably unsatisfactory — different styles, different temperaments, different strengths render the exercise futile. Today, however, I have no wish to avoid the inevitable, for mine is the privilege of having ridden the two great greys whose exploits have illuminated recent Christmases.

Desert Orchid was the horse of a jockey's dreams. Athletic and exuberant, he made every race a rollercoaster of emotions for his ever-growing legion of followers. His startling, snow-like colouring merely added to his popularity but, in truth, he needed no artificial charm. He won the King George VI Chase four Boxing Days out of five and I was his partner for the last two.

Now, seven years on from the last of that quartet, there is another giant grey, large in the public consciousness. His colouring is a shade darker and his style of running does not care to match the Pied Piperish Dessie, but One Man has won the past two runnings of the King George and today at Kempton Park he is favourite to emulate his spectacular predecessor with three in a row.

Before I assess our chances of success, I shall attempt some of those elusive comparisons, for when I saw the two greys together last week during a promotion for the race at Gordon Richards's yard in Cumbria, one thing struck me forcibly. Whatever else they may do differently, Desert Orchid and One Man share a rare intelligence.

To some, this will be perplexing; to others, probably, a nonsense. Intelligent horses? How do we know? Well, a horse cannot demonstrate human intellectualism, of course, but this does not mean that one is not brighter, more alert, observant and — yes — intelligent, than another. The best horses usually have this mental sharpness, this ability to notice things you would not expect, though it has to be said that it is not always an advantage.

In Desert Orchid, no one watching him closely could fail to notice his alertness, his love of taking in everything around him. Even in advanced retirement, he briefly went missing at Greystoke last week and was discovered at the top end of the yard, highly frustrated that the string had gone out on the gallops without him. He is a venerable 18 now, but apparently as bright as ever.

One Man may not quite match the charisma of Dessie but he is no less intelligent. In his last race at Huntingdon, he was immensely impressive but, as we reached the finishing post, he cocked his ears towards the stands in an unusual way. I honestly believe he had been listening to the noise of the race commentary over the speakers and was puzzled at it tailing off.

A horse able to take in such peripheral sounds and emotions is obviously clever, in the right sense. Cleverness, when applied to a racehorse, can be a derogatory term and there have been those tempted to use it about One Man on the occasions — especially at Cheltenham in March — when he has failed to see out a race, indeed when he has gone from cruising to a painful crawl in barely a few strides.

To my knowledge, nobody connected with the horse has come up with the definitive explanation, but we all have our theories. I think back to his first King George, two winters ago. A frozen Christmas meant it had been switched to Sandown Park, early in January, and, if that was to happen now, the theorists would say the stiff track and uphill finish were all against him. However, he showed no signs of stopping that day and went absolutely to his limit, his courage unquestionable.

He hit the front at the first fence down the back straight and stayed there resolutely, finishing 14 lengths clear of a high-quality field. I simply wonder if that race somehow left a mark, mental or physical.

I will certainly not be looking to have him in front so far out today. The tactics will be agreed between the trainer and myself but we seldom differ. There are enough renowned front-runners in the field for us to get a lead and, hopefully, produce him where it matters. It will not be straightforward, though. The rarity of winning three successive King Georges is one adverse factor; so, too, is the presence of two more greys with outstanding recent credentials.

Suny Bay, perversely, impressed me more on his comeback run at Haydock Park than when winning the Hennessy Gold Cup a fortnight later. There was no arguing with the way he strode up the straight at Newbury, though, and he will be a formidable rival.

Senor El Betrutti's season has been a fairy-tale for the Gloucestershire husband and wife who own and train him. He has startled us all by winning the two big autumn handicaps at Cheltenham in great style and he is a brilliant jumper.

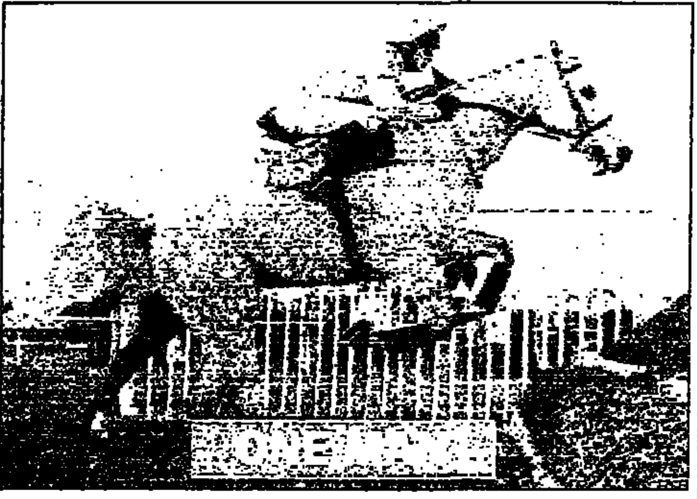
Do not discount Barton Bank, running as well as ever and jumping better. Adrian Maguire was very good on him in the Hennessy, very definite at the obstacles, and, of course, he has won this race before.

I shall be surprised if the winner comes from outside these four but this is no one-horse, One Man event. As ever, it will be fast and spectacular, the perfect post-Christmas cheer, this year even greyer than ever.

Today's cards, pages 26 and 27

BOXING DAY KINGS — HOW THE GREYS COMPARE

Career record: 70 races 34 wins 11 seconds 8 thirds
Career earnings: £654,066
Big race victories:
As well as four wins in the King George VI Chase (1986, 1988, 1989, 1990) Desert Orchid has triumphed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup (1989), Irish Grand National (1990) and Whitbread Gold Cup (1988).



Career record: 31 races 18 wins 3 seconds 2 thirds
Career earnings: £324,362
Big race victories:
Twice winner of the King George VI Chase, unusually in the same year of 1996 as the 1995 race was put back a month because of bad weather on Boxing Day, One Man also has the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup in 1994 to his credit.

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

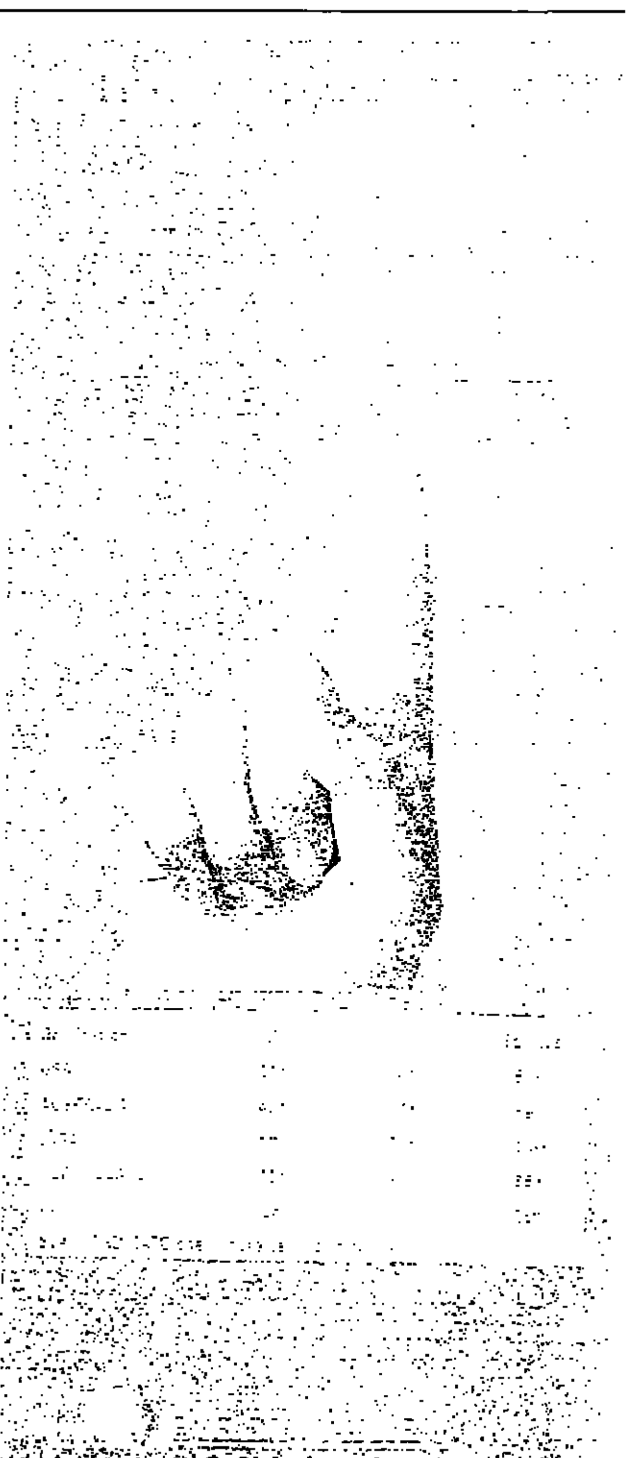
[illegible]

Lynne Truss at Stamford Bridge

[illegible]

David Hands meets a Lion at large

Under the skin of sport



BOXING DAY FOOTBALL

United they stand in league of their own

Oliver Holt can see no obvious challenge to Alex Ferguson's men for another season — at least

In recent years, at least, the song of delusion has remained the same. With the start of every season, the detractors have searched high and low for weaknesses in the structure of the Old Trafford fortress like Luke Skywalker and his rebel friends trying to pinpoint the flaw in the mother ship of the Empire. Like the Empire, though, the detractors have been made to feel The Force.

Once, a few seasons ago, Alex Ferguson was famously told by Alan Hansen that he would "never win anything with kids". His Manchester United side went on to achieve the double. This August, the critics wondered first whether United could possibly defend their championship without their great muse, Eric Cantona, then whether they would survive having lost their new captain, Roy Keane, to a serious knee injury.

United have just steamrollered on. Their excellence at home and abroad has been the dominant theme of the season so far. Nothing seems to be able to stop them. When any player, in any position, falls by the wayside because of injury or suspension, another is beckoned from the shadows and the machine rumbles on unhindered.

In Europe, United have embarrassed those cynics who still pay exaggerated heed to the reputations of the continental giants, by carrying all before them in the Champions' League. Their victory over Juventus at Old Trafford coupled with England's draw with Italy in Rome, which brought them automatic qualification for next year's World Cup, gave the game in this country a great shot in the arm.

With the domestic campaign now at its traditional halfway stage, United go into today's home game with Howard Kendall's struggling Everton side four points clear of the chasing pack. If the rest have been rendered wheezing and breathless by the chase, United have managed to give the impression that they have yet to stretch their legs.

They bought Teddy Sheringham to fill in for Cantona and, if he found it hard to settle in at first, the former Tottenham Hotspur striker is flourishing now. More than that, he seems to have freed up the debilitating case of striker's block that was weighing down Andy Cole.

It was said that United's European Cup hopes would founder on their lack of an established striker but Cole's recent avalanche of goals has made that a redundant argument now.

If Cole has been the star of the show, his goals helping United to blitz their way through the Champions' League above Juventus in group B to a relatively effortless qualification for the quarter-finals of the competition, Paul Scholes has been the revelation of the opening half of the season.

Even after his heroics for England in the Tournoi de France last summer, a regular place in the United side seemed in doubt until the injury to Keane, but Scholes has seized his chance. His neat goal in the home win over Juventus was a classic piece of clinical finishing, his passing has been breathtaking, his movement a joy to watch.

With Scholes and Nicky Butt an unbeatable pairing in the centre of midfield, Ryan Giggs maturing into the superstar everyone hoped he would become and Gary Pallister enjoying a career autumn burnished in gold, United are more likely to stretch their lead than see it reined in as winter turns to spring.

Of their challengers, neither Arsenal, whose ageing side is already showing signs of weakening as the wear and tear of the season takes hold, nor Blackburn Rovers, who have been commendably resuscitated by Roy Hodgson, nor Liverpool, still resolutely underachieving, appear to have the strength in depth or the consistency to make a concerted effort to dethrone the champions.

Only Chelsea, with their growing squad and their trickle of promising youngsters, appear capable of providing a genuine threat.

Their two games against United at Stamford Bridge in the next six weeks — the first in the FA Cup, the second in the FA Carling Premiership — will do much to decide the destination of the two main honours in the domestic game this season. Even though Dennis Wise has been outstanding and Gianluca Vialli is enjoying a limited renaissance, the inescapable conclusion is that Chelsea are one season short of wresting the title away from United.

Gianfranco Zola is not quite in the form he was last season and when suspension or injury robs them of their first-choice players, Chelsea can still look stretched, particularly in midfield, in a way that United are not. If Ruud Gullit stays on as manager and is given more money to spend, next season could be the one in which West London celebrates.

For some, of course, all hope of rivalling United disappeared long ago. The managerial merry-go-round began, predictably, just as November dawned on the Premiership.

David Pleat, at Sheffield Wednesday, was the first to go, sacked after a calamitous defeat at Old Trafford. Gerry Francis was next at Tottenham Hotspur, although he gave the impression that he had had to hacksaw through the shackles that Alan Sugar had fitted him with to get away.

Pleat will be back at Tottenham in the new year in some sort of general-manager role, overseeing the work of the somewhat eccentric Swiss disciplinarian, Christian Gross, the replacement for Francis. Their recruitment, though, was overshadowed by last week's arrival of Jürgen Klinsmann. The fact that manager, board and supporters appear to be pinning their hopes on a 33-year-old who has scored two goals during a miserable season with Sampdoria in Serie A seems indicative of an approach that could be described as papering over the cracks.

> 'Their excellence at home and abroad has been the dominant theme of the season'

And then there is Barnsley. The club that everyone wrote off before the season, the club that yearned to prove the doubters wrong and show us that it was possible for a small club to survive in the Premiership jungle, is anchored at the foot of the table.

They are beginning to get to grips with the reality of life in the top flight, they even pulled off the shock of the season with a 1-0 win at Anfield. If there is still any hope left on the last day of the season, though, it is likely to be extinguished then: that is when Danny Wilson and his team play host to Manchester United.

The arrival of Sheringham, left, and the emergence of Scholes have helped Manchester United to maintain their dominance of the game

Forest to sue over payment to referee

By Richard Hobson

NOTTINGHAM Forest have carried out their threat to issue a writ against Anderlecht for compensation after the Belgian club admitted making a payment to the referee in the 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final. The club and the players involved in the tie are pressing separate claims for a total of around £2 million.

Filip Goemans, the Belgian lawyer acting on behalf of Forest and players, said that Anderlecht had been given three months to agree a financial settlement, before the deadline imposed by Forest expired on Christmas Eve. Forest believe they are entitled to £1.5 million in gate receipts, television coverage and other commercial spin-offs forfeited through missing the final against Tottenham Hotspur. The 16 players cite win bonuses and subsequent improvements to their contracts.

Anderlecht were 2-0 down from the first leg, but won the second game 3-0 as Forest saw what appeared a legitimate goal by Paul Hart disallowed and a dubious penalty awarded against Kenny Swain by Guruceta Muro, the referee.

Allegations of bribery surfaced last February when it emerged that Anderlecht were being blackmailed over the issue. Constant Vanden Stock, the former Anderlecht chairman, later admitted that Muro had been paid the equivalent of £18,000 the day after the game. Muro, from Spain, died in a car crash ten years ago.

Anderlecht subsequently told Uefa that the payment to Muro was intended as a loan. However, Uefa decided to ban Anderlecht from European competition for a year the next time they qualify. Forest claim they are entitled to the vacant place and await Uefa's decision.

Kidderminster in for difficult time

By Walter Gammie

IN RECENT seasons Kidderminster Harriers' matches against Bromsgrove Rovers have been the Vauxhall Conference's biggest Boxing Day box-office attraction. A crowd of 6,081 flocked to Aggborough last season for an encounter that Kidderminster lost 2-1.

The relegation of Bromsgrove to the Dr Martens League might well have created a void for instant nostalgia for the five Christmases gone by were it not for the descent of Hereford United from the Nationwide League.

"It's a big swap for us," Graham Allner, the Kidderminster manager, said. "Our record gate figure was set against Hereford United. Although Bromsgrove is just ten miles down the road and Hereford is 35 miles away, there is a great tradition which dates to when there were three big clubs in the area. Well, it was Worcester and Hereford first, with us emerging later on."

In these safety-conscious days — and with the capacity at Aggborough fixed at 6,237 — Kidderminster will not, for the New Year's Day meeting, match that ground record, of 9,155, for an FA Cup first-round tie in 1948, but Allner reports Dave Reynolds, his chairman, breezily predicting a full house.

First, though, Kidderminster must go to Hereford, where the atmosphere promises to be highly charged. "They're on a cup run," Allner said. "The buzz you get from cup runs will ensure it will be a difficult fixture for us. There will be a big crowd, which will get behind them, and we expect we will have to defend very well. But we've got a bit of confidence and won't be going in like lambs to the slaughter."

That confidence is born from a conviction that after suffering a reaction to finishing runners-up to Macclesfield Town and losing Lee Hughes, who scored 30 goals in the Conference last season, and Marcus Bignot, their accomplished defender, to the Football League, Kidderminster's troubles have bottomed out at an uncomfortable seventeenth place in the table.

Allner has steadily rebuilt a side that now boasts only four regulars from last season and last month brought in Mike Bignall, 21, from Morecambe to partner Ian Arnold, a seasoned Conference striker, in attack. "Mike's full of goals," Allner said. "His record is one every two matches."

Stalybridge Celtic, who have not won for nine matches, this week appointed Mel Sterland as their manager and Imre Varadi as his assistant. Their first assignment is a trip to Northwich Victoria.

And Bromsgrove Rovers? They have to settle for the visit of Halesowen Town to the Victoria Ground.

Smith set to bring stability

DENIS SMITH could not have presented a greater contrast to Ray Harford, his predecessor, when he discussed his priorities as the ninth manager of West Bromwich Albion in ten years (Richard Hobson writes). Where Harford declined to sign a contract during his ten months at The Hawthorns and cited the distance from his home in Buckinghamshire as the reason he left for Queens Park Rangers, Smith immediately agreed a three-year deal, checked into a local hotel and began to scour the local property guide for permanent accommodation.

Moreover, Smith, who left Oxford United to take up the job on Tuesday evening, pledged to sell his home on the outskirts of Oxford, even though renovation work has only recently been completed. "I believe I have to live in the local area to do the job correctly," he said.

Smith is anxious to give Albion managerial stability. "I was at Sunderland for nearly five years, York City for five and Oxford for four, so I consider myself a loyal man," he said. Assessing the first division, Smith said: "Middlesbrough appear to be the best side and Sunderland have started to look strong. We can finish in the top two, but otherwise a play-off final at Wembley would be nice."

Russell Kempson on the uncertain future of the lower divisions

Poor relation fighting for slice of cake

AS THE FA Carling Premiership, dripping in cash and full of self-importance, continues to congratulate itself at every step, the Nationwide League gratefully grabs each morsel that falls from the high table. There are not many scraps left, hence the radical plans put forward by the Football League chairmen at a meeting in London earlier this month.

Bizarrely entitled Options Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto, they include a 12-club superleague, a six-division format, extra points for teams leading at half-time, penalty shoot-outs to decide drawn games and relegation play-offs. The proposals will be voted on in two months.

"We are acting to prevent the Premiership from leaving us high and dry," David Sheepshanks, the League chairman, said. "We are, to an extent, masters of our own destiny. We will leave no stone unturned." Cynics have long since suggested that football's rule-makers exist on another planet but at least the problems are being addressed.

The squabble over the devaluing of the Coca-Cola Cup rumbles on, too, with the League justifiably indignant that Uefa, the sport's European governing body, should have taken away the prize of a Uefa Cup place for the winners of its knockout competition. And all because the FA Premier League, which runs the Premiership, refuses to reduce its membership to 18.

Again, the League has been active in trying to seek a solution. It has taken its case to the European Commission in Brussels and a verdict is expected in February, around the time of the two-legged Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals. "We remain confident of a favourable decision," Sheepshanks, a dogged pursuer of justice, said.

Middlesbrough, Reading and Ipswich Town play in the quarter-finals early in the new year and, with Reading meeting Middlesbrough at Elm Park, the Nationwide League is guaranteed a representative in the last four. Ipswich face the more daunting task of taking on Chelsea at Portman Road.

In the first division, the cream is gradually rising to the top. Middlesbrough, away at Huddersfield Town this afternoon, lead the way, after a tardy start, ahead of Nottingham Forest on goals scored. Tucked in nicely behind are Sheffield United and Sunderland but Swindon Town and Bradford City are on the slide and West Bromwich Albion have yet to recover from Ray Harford's sudden departure.

Charlton Athletic are on a high of five wins in seven matches, shrugging aside the drug-related problems that still seem to haunt them, while Wolverhampton Wanderers could emerge from the pack if Mark McGhee, for once, delivers what he promises.

Perm any three from ten for the drop, with Bury and Crewe Alexandra in apparent freefall and Portsmouth all at sea as Terry Venables, their absentee chairman, considers World Cup coaching offers.

Taylor comes up trumps

WHEN Graham Taylor, the Watford general manager, assumed a more hands-on role at Vicarage Road at the start of the season, more than a few eyebrows were raised. Had he really recovered from his torrid time tending the England vegetable patch? Had he not left Wolverhampton Wanderers in similarly fraught circumstances?

When John Ward, the former Bristol Rovers manager, was appointed to succeed Joe Jordan at Bristol City in March, more than a few oaths were uttered. How could the Ashton Gate board appoint a man from the wrong side of town?

Woe, woe and thrice woe were predicted by many but, happily, Taylor and Ward have eased the fears of even their most demonic doubters to the extent that elevation from the Nationwide League second division appears all but assured. Watford, the leaders, are four points clear of Bristol City, who are 14 points ahead of Oldham Athletic, their nearest challengers.

Barring a slump of seismic proportions, the automatic promotion places have gone. The rest of the division, though, is a mess, unpredictable and open to as many interpretations as possibly imaginable. Highlighting the conundrum, Walsall, who play Bristol Rovers today, lie in fifteenth position but are only four points outside the play-off zone.

The second division is certainly no soft touch, as many well-known figures have swiftly discovered. Michael Knighton, the Carlisle United chairman, dismissed Mervyn Day, his manager, in September, claiming that he could do better. Carlisle were 22nd when Day departed; under Knighton's guidance, they are now 24th.

Burnley, faring little better in 23rd, have struggled since Chris Waddle, the former England winger, took control, while the Kevin Keegan-Ray Wilkins partnership at Fulham, and the millions of Mohamed Al Fayed, have yet to inspire great things at Craven Cottage.

Micky Adams, turfed out by Al Fayed to make way for the Keegan-Wilkins combo, resurfaced at Brentford via Swansea City but has produced only one win in nine matches since he arrived at Griffin Park. Luton Town are also down among the driftwood.

Grimsby Town take the honours for hard graft, having played 33 league and cup games this season — the most of any club in the Nationwide League.

No relief in sight for sad Doncaster

IT IS a distressing tale from the pit of the Nationwide League third division. Doncaster Rovers have played 27 league and cup matches this season and have won only once. They have scored 19 goals and conceded 71; they have had four players sent off and have used four managers. They are going nowhere — unless bankruptcy gets them first — but the Vauxhall Conference.

Perhaps Rovers' plight was best summed up when only 580 spectators turned up for their Auto Windscreens Shield northern section first-round tie against Rochdale at Belle Vue on December 9. Harvey Cunningham, their defender, was dismissed for the second time this season and they lost 1-0.

Brighton, still homeless and renting in Kent, Swansea City, Hull City and Darlington should maybe say a prayer that Doncaster do not go under before May, otherwise they could discover that their apparent safety net has been suddenly removed. Rovers' supporters — those that are left — are unlikely to receive much festive cheer from the visit of Mansfield Town this afternoon.

Notts County set the pace at the top, closely followed by Peterborough United and Lincoln City. Peterborough have given Barry Fry, their ebullient manager, much to crow about — not that he needs an excuse — with Jimmy Quinn and Martin Carruthers forging an impressive 34-goal partnership. Fry will hope that Quinn, 38, does not choose to exercise a clause in his contract that stipulates he can leave if a suitable manager's job becomes available elsewhere.

John Beck continues to guide Lincoln onwards and upwards, although their unbeaten 18-match sequence in league and cups ended earlier this month and they also lost on penalties to Emley, of the UniBond League, in an FA Cup second-round replay. Rotherham United, managed by Ronnie Moore, have risen from twentieth place to sixth and are inching closer to the front-runners.

For Macclesfield Town, the division newcomers, it is so far so good at home — eight wins, three draws in 11 matches — but rather less good on the road. They go to Darlington today still seeking to break their duck.

*FREE £10 BET

FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards.

RING TODAY BET TODAY 0800 44 40 40

(Minimum total investment per call £10 Over 18's only)

*Free bet is a £10 Correct Score bet on tonight's Aston Villa v Tottenham match. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)

William HILL

'LIVE' BOXING DAY ACTION

4/6 ASTON VILLA 12/5 DRAW TOTTENHAM 7/2

Villa Park, Kick-off 5.00pm, Live on Sky.

CORRECT SCORE

VILLA	SCORE TO BE	SPURS
6/1	1-0	9/1
7/1	2-0	20/1
15/2	2-1	16/1
11/1	3-0	50/1
11/1	3-1	40/1
25/1	3-2	33/1
17/2	0-0	17/2
6/1	1-1	6/1
14/1	2-2	14/1

Other scores on request.

DOUBLE RESULT

H/TIME	F/TIME	
A. VILLA	A. VILLA	6/4
A. VILLA	DRAW	14/1
A. VILLA	SPURS	40/1
DRAW	A. VILLA	4/1
DRAW	DRAW	9/2
DRAW	SPURS	9/1
SPURS	A. VILLA	25/1
SPURS	DRAW	14/1
SPURS	SPURS	8/1

Bets void if match not completed.

FIRST GOALSCORER

- 4/1....COLLYMORE (A)
- 9/2....MILOSEVIC (A)
- 11/2....JOACHIM (A)
- 8/1....FERDINAND (T)
- 9/1....IVERSEN (T)
- 10/1....DRAPER (A)
- 11/1....GINOLA (T)
- 16/1....EHIOGU (A)
- 17/2....NO GOALSCORER

Other players on request. Own goals do not count.

LATEST ODDS ON William Hill TV TEXT • Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603

PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION WILLIAM HILL FOOTBALL RULES APPLY. TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 289 892.

هكذا من الأمل

BOXING DAY FOOTBALL

MANCHESTER UNITED
v
EVERTON
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Oliver Holt

Three clean sheets in the past three games amounts to something of a mini-revival for Howard Kendall and his beleaguered Everton team, but they will face the ultimate test of their defensive worth at Old Trafford today when they come up against the might of the leaders of the FA Carling Premiership.

Manchester United, who are bulldozing their opponents when they play well and squeezing them when they do not, are four points clear at the top of the table and showing precious few signs of vulnerability.

Andy Cole, who scored on his return to Newcastle United last Sunday, and Teddy Sheringham are forming such an impressive partnership that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who has scored some spectacular goals himself this season, seems destined to be left on the bench once more.

With Ryan Giggs also approaching what many feel is the *best form of his career, adding* hard work and consistency to his dazzling speed on the wing, and Paul Scholes restored to the heart of midfield after suspension, Everton will have to play considerably above their best — of which not a great deal has been seen so far this campaign — to glean any return from this afternoon's match.

But after the gloom of the early season at Goodison Park, some hope has been restored to the faithful by the addition of new signings in the form of Thomas Myhre, the Norwegian goalkeeper, Mitch Ward and Carl Tiler.

Tiler, in particular, has impressed Evertonians who were sceptical about his arrival from Sheffield United, but he has more than filled the gap at the heart of the defence left by the suspension of Slaven Bilic, the Croatia international.

With Duncan Ferguson also suspended, Everton are likely to *play with Danny Cadamarteri* and Nick Barmby in attack.

Behind them, Gary Speed, the Wales captain, seems to have been galvanised by recent talk that he might be seeking a transfer from the troubled Merseyside club — Newcastle were said to be greatly interested.

It was Speed's late penalty at Filbert Street that gave Everton a priceless win over Leicester City.

United, though, will be keen to *begin their festive programme in* style in front of their own supporters.

With Gary Pallister and Ronnie Johnsen in superb form in defence, it is hard to see Everton drawing any reward for the effort they are sure to put in. It should be a spirited match but only a fool would bet against United in their present mood.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, G Pallister, R Johnsen, P Neville — D Beckham, N Butt, P Scholes, R Giggs — A Cole, E Sheringham.
EVERTON (probable: 3-5-2) T Myhre — D Watson, C Short, C Tiler — M Ward, J Oster, G Speed, G Farrelly, A Hinchcliffe — D Cadamarteri, N Barmby.
Referee: U Rennie.

■ PREDICTION: United to end Everton's revival.

ALLSPORT

Herr restored: Klinsmann is back at White Hart Lane, serving humble pie to Alan Sugar and, he hopes, goals to Tottenham Hotspur

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

NEVER GO BACK

Jürgen Klinsmann showed a rare talent for unexpected comebacks when he swept into White Hart Lane on Monday. Here are 11 other players who found that their ticket was stamped "return" rather than "single"

1. **Graeme Le Saux (Chelsea)**
Sold to Blackburn Rovers for £650,000, bought back by those financial eggheads at Stamford Bridge for £5 million
2. **Les Sealey (Manchester United)**
Signed on a free transfer, then again on loan, three years later. He had some unfinished shopping in the Megastore
3. **Martin Keown (Arsenal)**
George Graham sold him to Aston Villa for £200,000 in 1986 and re-signed him from Everton for £2 million 6½ years later, the old shrewdie
4. **Julian Dicks (West Ham United)**
Went to Liverpool for £1.5 million in September 1993 and came back again 13 months later. At Anfield he grabbed the No 23 shirt: "Well, it did say Fowler"
5. **Vinnie Jones (Wimbledon)**
A year at Leeds, a year at Sheffield United, a year at Chelsea before the prodigal returned. They even moved grounds while he was away, but he still found them
6. **Neil Ruddock (Tottenham Hotspur)**
Attracted by his appalling disciplinary record at The Dell, Spurs re-signed him
7. **Colin Hendry (Blackburn Rovers)**
Blond ambition took him back to Ewood Park from Manchester City
8. **Peter Beardsley (Newcastle United)**
He left when it was a club rule that Newcastle sold their best players and returned, via Liverpool and Everton, when they realised it was probably a mistake
9. **Brian Deane (Sheffield United)**
He went to Elland back, his price dropping from £2.9 million to £1.1 million in the process
10. **Mark Hughes (Manchester United)**
From Old Trafford to the Nou Camp and back again. The best buy-back ever?
11. **Robert Fleck (Norwich City)**
More Le Saux-like shrewdness by Chelsea, who lost £1.45 million and gained five goals

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

ARSENAL
v
LEICESTER CITY
Today, 12.0 (sold out)

Brian Glanville

One can only hope that both teams, imbued by seasonal spirit, rise above their recent dull levels. The virtue seems to have gone out of both of them. *For Arsenal, Ian Wright has lost* his way and even Dennis Bergkamp, since his return from suspension, has not been the same inspirational force. In midfield, David Platt, once such a star for England and several Italian clubs, is playing on borrowed time and the lack of a creator in midfield grows more and more apparent.

Tony Adams is now out for weeks with back trouble and his England future seems in jeopardy. Even David Seaman, in goal, has of late looked strangely vulnerable. Leicester's own goalkeeper, Kasey Keller, will no doubt be anxious to atone for the decisive penalty he so rashly gave away against Everton last week. Leicester's attack seems to be relying heavily on Steve Guppy's wing play and crosses and what Emile Heskey can make out of next to nothing.

Alan Hansen may be right when he says that the highly promising Heskey needs to add aggression to his outstanding pace and power.

If Leicester could give him the right service, he might play havoc with Arsenal's elderly defence. But can Izzet and Savage supply him? And can Kaamark, on the right, overlap?

ARSENAL (probable: 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bould, M Keown, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, D Platt, M Overmars — I Wright, D Bergkamp.
LEICESTER CITY (probable, 3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, S Walsh, M Elliott — P Kaamark, M Izzet, N Lennon, R Savage, S Guppy — E Heskey, S Claridge.
Referee: D Elleray.

■ PREDICTION: A draw.

ASTON VILLA
v
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 5.0 (sold out)

Rob Hughes

Christian Gross *regrets that, this* year, he has no time to shop for Christmas gifts. Brian Little frets over the virus confining seven players to bed. Both pine for goals from expensive strikers — Ferdinand, at £6 million, has three for Tottenham, the wayward Collymore, at £7 million, just two for Villa.

Thus a fixture so traditional you could feel the pulse of football through it is reduced to a struggle against mediocrity. When goalscorers fail, the fault may lie in those who serve them, and Villa have yet to replace the drive of Townsend while Tottenham lack a dynamic midfield force.

Gross, having to shrug off insults from those who hardly know him, takes solace in the form and attitude of Ginola. The second coming of Klinsmann will not be until Sunday, against Arsenal, and by then Gross hopes that Sugar, the chairman, and Pleat, the new director of football, will have agreed the *need to buy Lee Carsley*, of Derby County, or someone similar, to pep up the midfield.

Villa, welcoming Bosnich home but still without Yorke, need Staunton, Southgate, Draper and Taylor to shake off the bug — or illness could hand Spurs their first win at Villa Park since 1986.

ASTON VILLA (possible: 3-5-2). M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton — G Charles, M Draper, I Taylor, S Grayson, A Wright — S Collymore, S Milosevic.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable, 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, C Calderwood, S Campbell, C Wilson — R Fox, D Anderton, A Nielsen, A Sinton — D Ginola, L Ferdinand
Referee: A Wilkie.

■ TELEVISION: Today: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 4pm.
■ PREDICTION: Villa to win

Collymore charged, page 3

BOLTON WANDERERS
v
BARNSLEY
Today, 12.0 (sold out)

Michael Henderson

It is trite to say that Barnsley need to start winning matches, and soon, if they are to retain their *place in the Premiership*. Everybody expected them to be rooted to the bottom at Christmas. It is more pertinent to say that Bolton Wanderers must start to collect points in threes if they are not to return whence they came.

Although they have lost but once at home, Bolton have scored only eight goals in nine matches at the Reebok Stadium, and only 16 goals in all. This is not what Colin Todd, their manager, had *in mind when he recruited* Dean Holdsworth for £3.5 million, and brought in *Peter Beardsley* to lend an experienced hand. Nathan Blake, their leading scorer, still misses far too many chances.

Bolton were promoted as champions, playing some marvellous football, and they are clearly not going to surrender their status without a fight. Their disciplinary record attests to that. *If they fail to beat Barnsley*, who won the match at Oakwell in September, Bolton will be entitled to feel worried. Their defence ships far too much water.

As they seem unable to win away, it is imperative that Bolton keep grinding out points at home, where they have beaten Chelsea, and held Manchester United and Liverpool. Whatever happens, it is unlikely to be a game that lives in the memory.

BOLTON WANDERERS (possible; 4-4-2). K Branagan — G Bergsson, M Fish, A Todd, M Whitlow — P Frandsen, J Pollock, A Thompson, S Sellars — D Holdsworth, N Blake.
BARNSLEY (possible: 3-5-2). L Leese — A de Zeeuw, P Markstedt, A Moses — N Eaden, E Tinkler, N Redfearn, D Barnard, M Appleby — A Ward, A Liddell.
Referee: S Dunn

■ PREDICTION: Two apiece.

CHELSEA
v
WIMBLEDON
Today, 12.0 (sold out)

Peter Robinson

It is the day after Christmas, the washing-up has been cleared and the neighbours are popping in around lunchtime for a seasonal drink. All very civilised — but then your neighbours are probably not like the Wimbledon family. If there is a party to poop, they are there, setting up camp in the lounge, ghetto-blaster at full volume and bottles strewn over the carpet. Chelsea would probably prefer anyone else to visit them today.

Chelsea are unlikely to relish this kind of game. Remember the clash with *Leeds United a couple* of weeks ago, when Chelsea could not score against nine men for an entire half? If anyone can play with the same bloody-minded defiance, it is Wimbledon. The abandonment of Wimbledon's home game with Arsenal on *Monday* because of floodlight failure meant Ceri Hughes did not complete his ban and is therefore unavailable today. The Dons also have Perry suspended and, *with injuries as well, they* may be inspired by the spirit of "everything is against us, but we don't care" that has served them so well in the past.

Quite what Chelsea's team will *be is anybody's guess. There* are injuries that restrict the options available to Ruud Gullit, the manager — no Babayaro, for example, and no Poyet — but that will not stop him from springing *a surprise* or two.

CHELSEA (possible, 4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, M Duberry, F Leboeuf, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, D Wise, R Di Matteo, M Nicholls — G Zola, G Vialli.
WIMBLEDON (probable, 4-4-2) N Sullivan — B Thatcher, A Reeves, D Blackwell, A Kimble — N Ardley, V Jones, R Earle, M Gayle — C Cort, A Clarke.
Referee: G Willard

■ PREDICTION: Chelsea win.

LIVERPOOL
v
LEEDS UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Matt Dickinson

David James has just completed 200 consecutive games for Liverpool, but will he make it to 201? The arrival of Brad Friedel on Merseyside has placed a large question mark over his career, although it has been weeks, *if not months*, since he was guilty of one of his infamous blunders.

It is hard to believe that Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, will have gone to such lengths to sign Friedel for £1 million from Columbus Crew, battling through endless bureaucracy to secure the United States international's work permit, if he was not convinced that he is the better man.

Evans will be aware, also, that Friedel must play enough first-team games to justify the permit, otherwise he will be thrown out of the country in 12 months' time.

Whether Friedel is ready to be hurled into the fray after just a few days of training and the disruptions of the Christmas programme is uncertain, though, and James may keep *his place for a while longer*.

He is likely to have plenty of opportunities to prove his worth against a Leeds side who show no signs of ending their remarkable climb to prominence. Five wins and two draws in their past seven games send them into the game today fourth in the Premiership, above their opponents, and if they are earning a reputation for an overly-*physical approach on the way*, George Graham, the manager, will not care less.

True, he did clamp down on those who sinned at Chelsea when they had two players sent off, but his anger will have been because they let the side down rather than for moral outrage.

Paul Ince should return for Liverpool after a groin problem, at the expense of Jamie *Carragher*.

LIVERPOOL (probable: 4-4-2). D James — R Jones, D Matteo, B T Kvarme, S Harkness — S McManaman, J Redknapp, P Ince, O Leonhardsen — M Owen, R Fowler
LEEDS UNITED (probable: 4-4-2). N Martyn — G Halle, D Wetherall, R Molenaar, G Kelly — R Wallace, D Hopkin, D Robertson, A I Haaland — B Ribeiro, J F Hasselbaink.
Referee: S Lodge

■ PREDICTION: Leeds to continue their surge with a victory.

TOMORROW

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their Boxing Day match reports

CRYSTAL PALACE
v
SOUTHAMPTON
Today, 12.0

Nick Szczepanik

There are absolutely no prizes for guessing what Crystal Palace asked Santa for this Christmas: a home win. At their present rate, they are on course to beat the unwanted record of only one home victory in a league season, which is held jointly by Blackpool, Loughborough Town, Notts County and, surprisingly, Arsenal. Injuries to Padovano and Lombardo and the suspension of Edworthy will not help their cause, but Shipperley and Dyer are expected to be fit.

Southampton have been playing better than their away record (which *is almost as bad as* Palace's home one) suggests. David Jones, the manager, has decided on his best team — something that Graeme Souness, his predecessor, never quite managed — although that XI may yet be disturbed by the *hamstring injury that forced* Kevin Davies to leave the field at Villa Park last Saturday, when Southampton had the better of a 1-1 draw.

With perfect timing, Egil Ostenstad has returned to fitness after injury. Davies, despite earning a share of the November Carling player-of-the-month award, has been looking a little jaded in any case, according to regular Dell observers, so a rest, even an enforced one, could be useful.

CRYSTAL PALACE (possible, 3-5-2) K Miller — A Linighan, P Warhurst, H Hreidarsson — J *Fullarton, A Roberts, S Rodger, N Emblen*, D Gordon — B Dyer, N Shipperley
SOUTHAMPTON (probable, 4-3-1-2) P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Benali — C Palmer, K Richardson, M Oakley — M Le Tissier — D Hirst, K Davies (or E Ostenstad)
Referee: P Alcock.

■ PREDICTION: Not today, Pal*ace. A draw.*

DERBY COUNTY
v
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Neil Harman

In a bygone era of football on Christmas Day, it was often the case that teams would play the return fixture on the 26th. Tales abide of exhausting train journeys and bed and breakfast accommodation in a mood of joyous festive frolic.

Derby County and Newcastle United will be meeting for the second time in just over a week *and where is the fun in that? Not* much when Derby have gone two games without conceding a goal and Newcastle two without scoring.

Jim Smith, the Derby manager, had become exasperated as his team threw goals and points away, *so the recent stiffening of* their resolve has delighted him. He shares with Alex Ferguson the only unbeaten home record in the Premiership; indeed, only Newcastle have won at Pride Park, in the fourth round of the Coca-Cola Cup last month, courtesy of a goal by Tomasson, who was on the bench for the 1-0 defeat by Manchester United on Sunday and might struggle to win back his place, for Kenny Dalglish seems likely to again use Barnes operating just behind Asprilla. There could be a defensive reorganisation because Albert pulled a hamstring on Sunday.

Derby hope to have Sturridge back to join forces with Baiano and Wanchope, who have scored 17 league goals between them.

DERBY COUNTY (probable, 4-3-1-2) M Poom — G Rowett, C Powell, D Powell, I Stimac — L Carsley, S Eranio, J Laursen — F Baiano — D Sturridge, P Wanchope
NEWCASTLE UNITED (possible; 5-3-1-1) S Hislop — W Barton, S Watson, D Peacock, S Pearce, A Pistone — K Gillespie, D Batty, T Ketsbaia — J Barnes — F Asprilla
Referee: M Reed

■ PREDICTION: Derby to win by a couple.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
v
BLACKBURN ROVERS
Today, 3.0

Russell Kempson

Ron Atkinson strolled jauntily into Hillsborough last month, suntanned face beaming, and proceeded to lift the sagging spirits left by David Pleat's sad departure. Sheffield Wednesday might have been down but they were not out — as three Big Ron-inspired victories soon demonstrated.

Since then, though, they have lost 1-0 to West Ham United and 4-1 against Chelsea. The root cause of Wednesday's troubles may go much deeper than Atkinson first believed — as he could again discover this afternoon when Blackburn Rovers come visiting. *At least Peter Atherton* returns from suspension.

Many pundits still rate Blackburn as unworthy pretenders to Manchester United's Premiership crown but Roy Hodgson has engineered a remarkable transformation at Ewood Park. Although not quite of sow's ear-silk purse proportions, Rovers have *lost only twice this season and* appear to possess the stickability required to push United, and maybe Chelsea, all the way.

Chris Sutton is back from suspension and should partner Kevin Gallacher. Damien Duff, 18, would usually stand down but such is the form of the boy from Ballyboden, one of Ireland's finest prospects, that Jason Wilcox is likely to make way instead.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (possible, 4-4-2) K Pressman — I Nolan, J Newsome, D Walker, P Atherton — G Whittingham, W Collins, P Rudi, M Pembridge — B Carbone, A Booth
BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable, 4-4-2) T Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, C Hendry, G Croft — S Ripley, W McKinlay, T Sherwood, D Duff — C Sutton, K Gallacher
Referee: J Winter

■ PREDICTION: Rovers to roll relentlessly on.

WEST HAM UNITED
v
COVENTRY CITY
Today, 12.0 (sold out)

David Powell

Boxing Day is *best spent at* home for West Ham United, who have a record second only to Manchester *United's in* repelling visiting teams. Coventry City, one goal and no points from their last three Premiership away matches, are hardly the opposition to end Newcastle United's role as the only club to leave Upton Park this season with full points, or any for that matter.

Defeat, though, could leave Coventry in what is traditionally the worst place to be at this time of year, other than bottom. Of the 19 clubs relegated since the Premier League was formed, 11 were not in the drop zone after the Boxing Day programme, which marks the start to the second half of the season.

More often than not the club in seventeenth place goes down: witness Middlesbrough, Queens Park Rangers and Crystal Palace. Coventry, though, are master escapologists and called to the *cause are George Boateng*, a £250,000 buy from Feyenoord, and Viorel Moldovan, a £3.2 million Romania international.

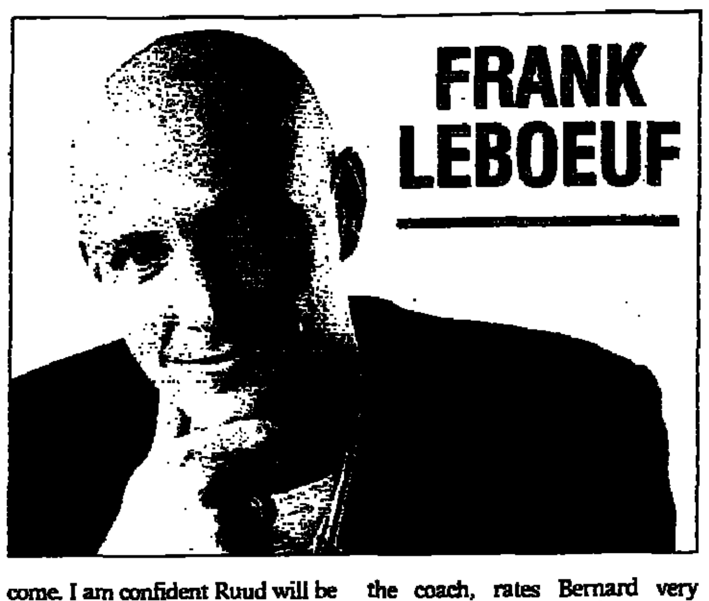
Boateng made an impressive midfield debut against Liverpool *last weekend but Moldovan will* not make his first appearance until the new year. West Ham may give a debut to Bernard Lama, the France goalkeeper, who signed on loan this week.

WEST HAM UNITED (probable, 3-4-1-2): C Forrest (or B Lama) — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — A Impey, S Lomas, F Lampard, K Rowland — E Berkovic — P Kitson, J Hartson.
COVENTRY CITY (possible; 4-4-2). M Hedman — R Nilsson, R Shaw, D Dublin, M Hall — P Telfer, G Boateng, T E Soltvedt, W Boland — S Haworth, D Huckerby
Referee: G Poll

■ PREDICTION: *United v City. Just* as you would expect a Manchester derby to go. A United win.

BOXING DAY FOOTBALL

Gullit must be made to see his future resides with Chelsea



FRANK LEBOEUF

Chelsea players hardly need any more incentives to play well at the moment, with so much silverware at stake and with the championship race bubbling away. There is, though, also the little matter of convincing Ruud Gullit that he does not need to look beyond Stamford Bridge when he considers his long-term future.

There has been a lot of speculation recently about Ruud's plans beyond the summer and the fact that he has yet to sign a new contract with Chelsea. All the players know is that he is here until the end of the season. There are no guarantees beyond that.

Ruud is his own man and he will make the decision that suits him and his family best. Who can blame him for that? I am confident, though, that when the time comes for him to make up his mind, he will see that Chelsea is where his future happiness lies.

For starters, there is the joy he takes — like so many of us foreigners at Stamford Bridge — from living in London. It is a wonderful city with so much to explore and enjoy, and one of the biggest advantages for such a revered, and instantly recognisable, figure like Ruud is that you don't get pestered.

Sure, people recognise you walking down the street, but they rarely hassle you and it is such a big place that it is easy to keep your head down. Much more so, say, than somewhere like Milan.

The other reason for Ruud to stay here is the football. He is such a perfectionist when it comes to the job and, while everything is going so well for us at the moment with a Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final, and the FA Cup, Coca-Cola Cup and Premiership to fight for, he is the type who is always striving for improvement.

I honestly believe that, on our day, Chelsea can play the best football in the country but in Ruud's eyes, the job is only half done until we win the championship. That is the standard he insists is shared by the players.

It would be so very, very sad if Ruud decided to leave Chelsea because he is a man, and a manager, you cannot help but respect, a football legend. It was encouraging to hear him talk recently, though, of long-term plans for the club and I believe he can still see so much potential to explore here, on and off the pitch where the new stand is taking shape.

Yes, things are going very well for us all at Stamford Bridge, but hopefully there is much more to come. I am confident Ruud will be there when it happens.

■ World-class talent

West Ham fans probably do not realise it yet, but their club has just signed a player of world-class talent for nothing. I am talking about Bernard Lama, an old friend of mind and a colleague in the France team.

As a goalkeeper, Bernard is up there with the best and I believe he can be involved in the World Cup. Fabien Barthez, who plays for AS Monaco, is at present the first choice, but I know Aimé Jacquet, the coach, rates Bernard very highly and hopefully this move to London will push his career back in the right direction.

It has been widely publicised that Bernard was banned for testing positive for cannabis, something that caused him much trouble in France, where he played for Paris Saint-Germain. He could have stayed there, but decided it would be better to have a clean start elsewhere after all the fuss.

Let me make it absolutely clear straightaway that I do not approve of drugs and, personally, would not want to go anywhere near them. We all know their potentially harmful effects.

I find it amazing, though, that a footballer, or any sportsman, should be banned for smoking a drug that no one in their right mind would regard as performance enhancing. Of course, a footballer, or any member of the public, must expect a fine if they are caught with drugs, because that is what the law dictates.

It seems so incredibly harsh, though, that it should then lead to a player being suspended for weeks or months. It does not happen if they are found guilty of some other offence unrelated to the sport and, I repeat, no one would smoke a joint in the hope of playing better football. It is not cheating, so why should his career be punished?

It was still a silly mistake by Bernard and one he regrets. Hopefully, now, though, he will be able to concentrate on his career because he is a top-class player and a good team man.

It is not often that anyone of his ability becomes available. He has signed until the end of the season and this could be a big year for him with the World Cup coming up. I am confident West Ham have got themselves a bargain.

■ Fascinating signing

Another foreigner who has just joined we exiles in England — in case you had not noticed! — is Jürgen Klinsmann and it has been fascinating to see the effect that he has already had at Tottenham Hotspur, where morale is now sky-high.

I played against Jürgen a couple of times when I was at Strasbourg and he was at Monaco so I know first-hand just how strong he is. I don't remember him diving, although that would be because he never had the chance — I made sure I always won the ball!

Although he is 33, he is a man who has always looked after his body — so I have no doubts that he can make a huge impact on the Premiership again. We do not play Spurs again until April, so I have plenty of time in which to learn his moves.

It will be interesting to see how Christian Gross fits him into the team because most people would have agreed that it was in defence that Tottenham really needed to sign new players.

I did not get much of a chance to speak to Jürgen when we were in France but it might be good to have a chat now. I know he takes a keen interest in the environment and travel and they are both topics close to my own heart. It is that curiosity and love of exploration that has brought us both to England. The same could be said of Ruud and Bernard. It is a joy for us all to be here.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	Played	Points	Goal diff	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Last 10 matches W-D-L	Current streak
1. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	19	43	+32	8	1	0	28	4	5	3	2	17	9	8-1-1	W5
2. BLACKBURN ROVERS (2)	19	39	+17	7	2	1	23	10	4	4	1	13	9	7-2-1	W3
3. CHELSEA (3)	19	38	+26	6	1	1	16	6	6	1	4	29	13	7-1-2	W1
4. LEEDS UTD (4)	19	34	+9	5	2	3	15	11	5	2	2	13	8	6-3-1	W1
5. LIVERPOOL (6)	18	31	+14	6	0	3	20	9	3	4	2	11	8	6-1-3	W2
6. ARSENAL (5)	18	30	+11	5	2	2	19	7	3	4	2	13	14	3-3-4	L1
7. DERBY COUNTY (7)	19	29	+6	6	3	0	19	5	2	2	6	14	22	3-4-3	D3
8. LEICESTER CITY (8)	19	27	+5	3	5	3	12	10	4	1	3	11	8	2-3-5	L2
9. NEWCASTLE UTD (9)	18	26	-2	5	3	3	12	11	2	2	3	8	11	2-5-3	L1
10. WEST HAM UTD (10)	19	25	-6	7	0	1	17	6	1	1	9	8	25	4-0-6	L1
11. WIMBLEDON (11)	18	23	-2	3	2	5	11	14	3	3	2	8	7	4-2-4	D1
12. ASTON VILLA (12)	19	22	-5	4	2	3	12	13	2	2	6	8	12	3-3-4	D1
13. CRYSTAL PALACE (15)	19	21	-8	0	3	5	5	14	5	3	3	12	11	2-4-4	D1
14. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (13)	19	21	-12	5	1	4	18	17	1	2	6	13	26	5-0-5	L2
15. SOUTHAMPTON (17)	19	20	-6	5	1	4	17	14	1	1	7	6	15	5-1-4	D1
16. COVENTRY CITY (14)	19	20	-8	3	6	1	14	10	1	2	6	3	15	2-3-5	L1
17. BOLTON WANDERERS (16)	19	20	-13	3	5	1	8	6	1	3	6	8	23	3-3-4	L1
18. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (18)	19	19	-15	4	2	4	11	14	1	2	6	6	18	3-0-7	W1
19. EVERTON (19)	19	17	-10	3	2	4	11	13	1	3	6	6	14	2-3-5	W1
20. BARNSLEY (20)	19	14	-33	2	2	5	10	20	2	0	8	7	30	2-2-6	L1

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Chelsea	45	2.37
=. Manchester Utd	45	2.37
3. Blackburn	36	1.89
4. Arsenal	32	1.78
5. Derby	33	1.74
6. *Liverpool*	31	1.72
7. Sheffield Wed	31	1.63
8. Leeds	28	1.47
9. West Ham	25	1.32
10. Leicester	23	1.21
=. Southampton	23	1.21
12. Newcastle	20	1.11
13. Wimbledon	19	1.06
14. Aston Villa	20	1.05
15. Barnsley	17	0.89
=. Coventry	17	0.89
=. Crystal Palace	17	0.89
=. *Everton*	17	0.89
=. Tottenham	17	0.89
20. Bolton	16	0.84

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	20	12
Aston Villa	7	13
Barnsley	9	6
Blackburn	25	13
Bolton	6	10
Chelsea	18	27
Coventry	7	10
Crystal Palace	9	8
Derby	14	19
Everton	6	11
Leeds Utd	15	13
Leicester	8	15
Liverpool	8	23
Manchester Utd	17	28
Newcastle	10	10
Sheffield Wed	14	17
Southampton	8	15
Tottenham	10	7
West Ham	7	18
Wimbledon	6	13

SCORERS

	Goals
Baiano (Derby)	11
Cole (Manchester Utd)	11
Hartson (West Ham)	11
Sutton (Blackburn)	11
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	10
Wright (Arsenal)	10
Gallacher (Blackburn)	9
Wallace (Leeds)	8
Blake (Bolton)	7
Carbone (Sheffield Wed)	7
Davies (Southampton)	7
Di Canio (Sheffield Wed)	7
Dublin (Coventry)	7
Fowler (Liverpool)	7
Sheringham (Manchester Utd)	7
Zola (Chelsea)	7
Berkovic (West Ham)	6
Flo (Chelsea)	6
Huckerby (Coventry)	6
McManaman (Liverpool)	6
Redfearn (Barnsley)	6
Speed (Everton)	6
Wanchope (Derby)	6

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Leeds Utd	47	3
2. Everton	42	3
3. Arsenal	42	1
4. Coventry	40	3
5. Bolton	37	4
6. *C Palace*	39	2
7. Derby	40	1
8. Chelsea	36	3
9. West Ham	36	1
10. Blackburn	33	3
11. Newcastle	32	1
12. Sheffield Wed	30	2
13. Manchester Utd*	31	0
14. Barnsley	30	0
15. Liverpool	28	1
16. Tottenham	27	1
17. Southampton	28	0
18. Leicester	24	1
19. Wimbledon	25	0
20. Aston Villa	20	1

** red card downgraded to yellow*

REFEREES

	P	Cards issued Yellow	Cards issued Red
1. G Willard	10	48	3
2. M Reed	8	38	1
3. G Poll	11	43	5
4. P Durkin	12	49	2
5. U Rennie	11	43	1
6. G Barber	10	37	3
7. P Alcock	10	40	0
8. J Winter	11	40	2
9. D Elleray	10	37	1
10. S Dunn	8	29	1
11. P Jones	9	30	2
12. M Bodenham	9	32	0
13. A Wilkie	11	35	2
14. G Ashby	10	32	2
15. M Riley	10	31	2
16. K Burge	9	28	1
17. N Barry	10	30	1
18. D Gallagher	10	24	2
19. S Lodge	10	21	0

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	13	0.68
2. Liverpool	17	0.94
3. Leicester	18	0.95
4. Blackburn	19	1.00
=. *Chelsea*	19	1.00
=. Leeds	19	1.00
7. Arsenal	21	1.17
=. Wimbledon	21	1.17
9. Newcastle	22	1.22
10. Aston Villa	25	1.32
=. Coventry	25	1.32
=. Crystal Palace	25	1.32
13. Derby	27	1.42
=. Everton	27	1.42
15. Bolton	29	1.53
=. Southampton	29	1.53
17. West Ham	31	1.63
18. Tottenham	32	1.68
19. Sheffield Wed	43	2.26
20. Barnsley	50	2.63

CLEAN SHEETS

	Clean sheets	Failed to score
Arsenal	7	5
Aston Villa	5	7
Barnsley	3	7
Blackburn	8	3
Bolton	7	7
Chelsea	8	3
Coventry	6	9
Crystal Palace	5	7
Derby	6	6
Everton	6	9
Leeds Utd	7	8
Leicester	7	5
Liverpool	7	2
Manchester Utd	11	3
Newcastle	5	5
Sheffield Wed	4	2
Southampton	3	7
Tottenham	6	10
West Ham	2	5
Wimbledon	4	6

BOXING DAY RECORDS

	1992-3	1993-4	1994-5	1995-6	1996-7
Arsenal	D (0-0)	W (4-0)*	D (0-0)	W (3-0)	D (0-0)
Aston Villa	L (0-3)	—	D (0-0)	—	L (0-2)
Barnsley	L (2-4)	L (0-1)*	W (4-1)	W (3-1)	L (0-1)
Blackburn	W (3-1)	D (1-1)	W (3-1)	W (2-0)	W (1-0)
Bolton	W (2-1)	*D (0-0)**	D (1-1)	L (0-2)*	W (2-1)
Chelsea	D (1-1)	L (1-3)*	L (2-3)	L (1-2)	W (2-0)
Coventry	W (3-0)	W (2-1)	D (0-0)	—	W (3-1)
Crystal Palace	W (2-0)	W (3-1)*	D (0-0)	—	L (1-3)
Derby	L (1-2)	L (1-3)*	L (1-3)	W (1-0)	L (0-2)
Everton	D (2-2)	L (0-2)*	L (1-4)	W (4-0)	L (2-4)
Leeds Utd	L (1-3)	—	D (0-0)	W (2-0)*	L (1-3)
Leicester	—	D (4-4)*	L (1-2)	—	D (1-1)
Liverpool	—	D (0-0)	W (2-1)	—	D (1-1)
Manchester Utd	D (3-3)	D (1-1)	W (3-2)	W (2-0)*	W (4-0)
Newcastle	W (2-1)	—	D (0-0)	L (0-2)*	L (0-1)
Sheffield Wed	D (3-3)	W (2-0)*	W (4-1)	L (0-1)	D (0-0)
Southampton	D (1-1)	W (3-1)*	L (2-3)	D (0-0)	L (1-3)
Tottenham	D (0-0)	L (1-3)*	W (2-0)	D (0-0)	W (3-1)
West Ham	D (1-1)	D (1-1)*	D (1-1)	—	—
Wimbledon	L (0-2)	L (1-2)	W (3-2)	W (2-1)	—

* fixture played on December 27

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites

Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	www.astonvilla-fc.co.uk
Barnsley	www.yorkshire-web.co.uk/bfc/BFC.HTML
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

TODAY'S MATCHES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated ** denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise seats available

FA Carling Premiership

(1) † Arsenal v Leicester (noon)
(-) † Aston Villa v Tottenham (5.0)
(2) † Bolton v Barnsley (noon)
(3) † Chelsea v Wimbledon *(noon)*
(4) Crystal Palace v Southampton (noon)
(5) † Derby v Newcastle
(6) † *Liverpool v Leeds*
(7) † Manchester Utd v Everton
(8) Sheffield Wed v Blackburn
(9) † West Ham v Coventry (noon)

Nationwide League
First division

(10) Charlton v Norwich (noon)
(11) * Crewe v *Manchester City*
(12) * Huddersfield v Middlesbrough
(13) Ipswich v Birmingham
(14) Nottingham Forest v Swindon
(15) Portsmouth v QPR
(16) Reading v West Bromwich (noon)
(17) Stockport v Port Vale
(18) Stoke v Sheffield Utd
(19) Sunderland v Bradford
(20) Tranmere v Bury
(21) Wolverhampton v Oxford Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	23	13	6	4	39	19	45
Nottm Forest	23	13	6	4	37	21	45
Sheff Utd	23	11	9	3	34	22	42
Charlton	23	12	5	6	43	29	41
West Bromwich	23	12	4	7	25	21	40
Sunderland	22	11	6	5	35	21	39
Swindon	23	11	5	7	32	31	38
Wolverhampton	23	10	6	7	29	26	36
Stockport	23	10	5	8	39	32	35
Bradford	23	8	9	6	22	22	33
Birmingham	23	8	8	7	24	19	32
QPR	23	8	6	9	28	36	30
Norwich	23	8	6	9	23	32	30
Ipswich	22	6	9	7	27	25	27
Stoke	23	7	6	10	24	30	27
Oxford Utd	23	7	5	11	29	33	26
Port Vale	23	7	5	11	26	30	26
Reading	23	6	7	10	21	35	25
Man City	23	6	6	11	26	27	24
Huddersfield	23	6	5	12	24	37	23
Tranmere	22	6	4	12	28	34	22
Bury	23	4	10	9	22	32	22
Crewe	23	6	3	14	26	39	21
Portsmouth	22	5	5	12	26	36	20

Second division

(22) Bournemouth v Gillingham (noon)
(23) Brentford v Southend (noon)
(24) Bristol City v Millwall (noon)
(25) *Burnley v Chesterfield*
(26) Carlisle v Blackpool
(27) Luton v Northampton
(28) Plymouth v Fulham
(29) Preston v Oldham
(30) Walsall v Bristol Rovers
(31) Wrexham v Wigan (noon)
(32) Wycombe v Watford (1.30)
(33) York v Grimsby

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	23	16	5	2	38	15	53
Bristol City	23	15	4	4	40	18	49
Oldham	23	9	8	6	37	29	35
Millwall	22	10	5	7	28	24	35
Northampton	23	9	8	6	25	17	35
York	23	9	7	7	31	28	34
Grimsby	22	9	7	6	28	18	34
Chesterfield	23	8	10	5	22	18	34
Blackpool	23	9	5	9	32	36	32
Bristol Rovers	23	8	7	8	31	35	31
Preston	23	9	4	10	29	23	31
Fulham	23	8	7	8	25	25	31
Wrexham	22	7	9	6	27	24	30
Bournemouth	23	7	9	7	24	24	30
Walsall	22	8	6	8	24	25	30
Wigan	22	8	4	10	34	33	28
Gillingham	23	7	7	9	27	32	28
Wycombe	23	6	8	9	30	35	26
Southend	23	7	5	11	27	43	26
Plymouth	23	5	9	9	28	31	24
Brentford	23	5	7	11	24	39	22
Luton	22	5	7	10	23	35	22
Burnley	23	4	8	11	23	34	20
Carlisle	23	5	4	14	26	42	19

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Nuneaton (11.0); Bath v Merthyr; Bromsgrove v Halesowen (11.0); Crawley v Hastings; Dorchester v Salisbury; Forest Green v Gloucester; Gresley v Burton Albion (11.30); Rothwell v King's Lynn (2.30); Sittingbourne v Cambridge City; St Leonards v Ashford; Worcester v Tamworth (11.30). Southern division: Baldock v Chelmsford; Bashley v Weymouth; Clevedon v *Weston-s-Mare (11.0)*; Dartford v Erith (12.0); Fisher v Fleet, Newport AFC v Cinderford (12.0); Newport (IoW) v Fareham (1.0). Tonbridge v Margate (11.30); Waterlooville v Havant (12.0); Witney v Cirencester; Yate v Trowbridge. Midland division: Bedworth v VS Rugby (11.30); Brackley v Raunds (12.0); Corby v Ilkeston; Hinckley Utd v Sutton Coldfield; Moor Green v Redditch (11.30); Paget v Solihull (11.30); RC Warwick v Evesham; *Shepshed D v Blakenall (12.0)*; Stourbridge v Bilston (11.30), Wisbech v Grantham (11.30).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Gainsborough v Boston; Marine v Winsford; Radcliffe v Hyde. First division: Congleton v Albion; Matlock Town v Buxton

Third division

(34) Barnet v Peterborough (noon)
(—) Brighton v Colchester (1.0)
(35) Cambridge Utd v *Leyton Orient (noon)*
(36) Cardiff v Exeter
(37) Darlington v Macclesfield
(38) Doncaster v Mansfield
(39) Hartlepool v Scarborough
(40) Hull v Chester
(41) Lincoln v Rotherham
(42) Rochdale v Shrewsbury
(43) Scunthorpe v Notts County
(44) Torquay v Swansea (12.15)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts County	23	12	8	3	36	23	44
Peterborough	23	11	10	2	44	20	43
Lincoln	23	11	8	4	25	22	41
Exeter	23	10	8	5	34	25	38
Scarborough	23	11	4	8	36	31	37
Rotherham	23	9	8	6	37	32	35
Barnet	23	10	5	8	34	30	35
Hartlepool	23	7	13	3	33	26	34
Chester	23	10	4	9	33	30	34
Torquay	23	9	7	7	32	32	34
L Orient	23	9	7	7	25	21	34
Macclesfield	22	8	9	5	30	23	33
Scunthorpe	22	9	6	7	29	28	33
Colchester	22	8	6	8	32	31	30
Camb Utd	23	6	10	7	31	30	28
Cardiff	22	5	13	4	20	20	28
Shrewsbury	22	7	6	9	32	32	27
Mansfield	23	6	8	9	29	29	26
Rochdale	23	8	2	13	27	29	26
Darlington	22	5	8	9	25	32	23
Hull	23	6	4	13	32	42	22
Swansea	23	6	4	13	23	36	22
Brighton	23	3	8	12	16	30	17
Doncaster	*23*	*1*	*6*	*16*	*16*	*57*	*9*

Vauxhall Conference

(45) Cheltenham v Yeovil (1.0)
(46) Dover v Welling (noon)
(47) Gateshead v Halifax (2.0)
(48) Hednesford v Kettering
(—) Hereford v Kidderminster (noon)
(49) Leek v Telford ...... (Pitch inspection, 9.0)
(—) Morecambe v Southport
(—) Northwich v Stalybridge
(—) Rushden & Diamonds v Stevenage
(—) Slough v Hayes
(—) Woking v Farnborough

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halifax	21	14	5	2	44	20	47
Cheltenham	19	12	5	2	34	19	41
Hednesford	21	11	7	3	34	25	40
Morecambe	20	11	5	4	43	28	38
Rushden & D	22	12	2	8	38	34	38
Woking	21	10	7	4	36	21	37
Southport	20	9	6	5	36	25	33
Hayes	21	9	4	8	32	25	31
Yeovil	18	9	3	6	32	23	30
Hereford	20	7	6	7	27	27	27
Dover	20	8	3	9	30	37	27
Slough	19	7	5	7	29	26	26
Welling	19	7	4	8	28	32	25
Leek	21	5	8	8	28	33	23
Farnborough	20	6	5	9	30	38	23
Stevenage	21	5	7	9	27	30	22
Kidderminster	22	5	7	10	30	36	22
Northwich	21	3	12	6	30	37	21
Telford	*21*	*4*	*6*	*11*	*25*	*42*	*18*
Kettering	20	3	6	11	20	32	15
Stalybridge	20	4	3	13	23	41	15
Gateshead	21	2	6	13	23	43	12

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Basildon U; Concord Rangers v Hullbridge Sports; Great Wakering v Southend Manor; Stansted v Sawbridgeworth.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Hythe v Folkestone Invicta (11.15).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Barnstaple.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: GPT (Coventry) v Coventry Sphinx (11.30).

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division (11.0): *Clacton v Harwich and* Parkeston; Fakenham v Watton; Great Yarmouth v Gorleston; Tiptree v Halstead.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Newbury v Thatcham Town; Totton v BAT (12.0). Aerostructures v Eastleigh (11.0). Bournemouth v Wimborne (1.0); Romsey v Christchurch (12.0).

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Eynesbury v St Neots; Stamford v Mirrlees Blackstone.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Littlehampton (11.0); Burgess Hill v Hassocks; Pagham v Selsey (12.0)

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE (11.0). Bridgnorth v Shifnal T, Chasetown v Pelsall V; Halesowen H v Oldbury; Kings Norton v Boldmere St M; Knypersley V v Rocester; Pershore T v *Stratford T; Rushall O v Bloxwich Town*; Sandwell v W Mid Police; Stapenhill v Barwell; Wednesfield v Willenhall.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Rhayader Town (2.30); Caernarfon v Porthmadog; Caersws v Newtown (2.30); Cemaes Ynys Mon v Bangor City (2.30); Flint Town v Connah's Quay (11.0), *Haverfordwest* v Ebbw Vale (2.30); Rhyl v Conwy (2.30); Welshpool v TNS (2.30)

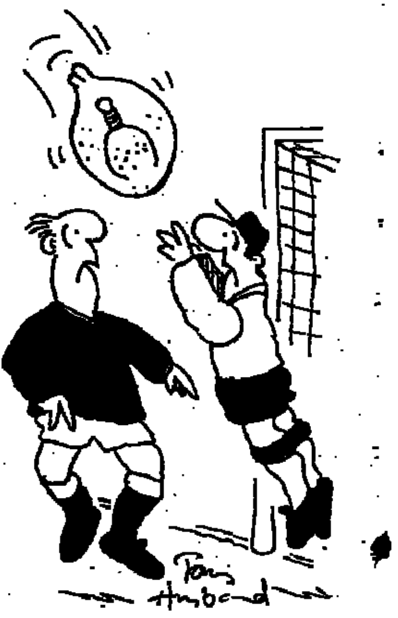
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena v Coleraine; Cliftonville v Crusaders; Glentoran v Linfield; *Portadown* v Glenavon. First division: Carrick v Bangor.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v Derry (3.15).

COVERAGE

TELEVISION: BBC1: *Final Score*, 4.50pm. Channel 5: *Football Special* (highlights from 1997, as featured on *Channel 5*), *from* 1.05pm. Sky Sports 1: *Futbol Mondial*, from 7am; Premiership, Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur (live), from 4pm (highlights repeated at 10pm and 2.30am). Sky Sports 2: *Futbol Mondial*, from 10.30am; *Nationwide League*, Reading v West Bromwich Albion (live), from 11.30am; *Futbol Mondial*, from 2.30pm; Football League review, from 12.30am. Sky Sports 3: Football League review, from 8pm. Eurosport: *World Cup Legends*, from 11am; *World Cup Special*, from 7pm.

RADIO: BBC Radio 5 Live: Coverage of two live Premiership games and round-up of all the day's action in *Sport on Five*, from 11am; *The Late Six-O-Six*, from 7pm.



Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

Which bowler known as 'Chicken George' completed a hat-trick against England?

The Times presents today the traditional festive challenge — the Quiz of the Sporting Year. Test your knowledge on the milestones and misfortunes that made 1997 such a year to remember and you may be the winner of a methuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne. The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn — or if necessary the entrant with the most correct answers drawn — will receive the champagne, worth £250. The six runners-up will receive *Visions of Football*, a celebration of the work of the Allsport photographic agency. *Visions of Football* is published by Andre Deutsch at £14.99. Closing date is Friday, January 9, 1998

Compiled by John Goodbody

JANUARY

1. Which cyclist, who won the Tour de France five times, announced his retirement?
2. Which weightlifter, who won a record three Olympic titles, also retired?
3. How many matches in the one-day cricket series against England did Zimbabwe win?
4. Which bowler, known as "Chicken George", took a hat-trick *in the third* one-day match between England and Zimbabwe?
5. Which Briton, who was banned for four years for taking anabolic steroids, returned to top-class athletics by beating Colin Jackson in a 60-metres sprint in Birmingham?
6. Of whom was it said: "Whoever follows will not have the same charisma and popularity. There is no one in Europe who could *follow* him."?
7. Who said: "I am doing what is best for me," as he left his job as chief executive of a British sports body?
8. Whose rugby union career was interrupted by a kidney disorder?
9. When Martina Hingis won the Australian Open, aged 16 years and three months, she became the youngest *tennis player to win* a grand-slam singles title since which British player?

FEBRUARY

10. Who knocked Manchester United out of the FA Cup?
11. What was the job of Chris Doig immediately before he became the chief executive of New Zealand Cricket Inc?
12. *Which heavyweight boxer* said after losing a world title bout: "Drugs and alcohol are a disease. I can't control the disease. I speak to my drugs counsellor daily."?
13. Who scored the only goal in the England v Italy World Cup qualifying match at Wembley?
14. In which sport did a South Africa national coach resign after allegedly making racist remarks?
15. Which club did Roy Hodgson leave to become manager of Blackburn Rovers?
16. What fate befell Alberto Tomba when he was defend*ing his giant slalom title at the* world championships in Sestriere?
17. Where did Tomba finish in the slalom?

MARCH

18. Who won the five nations' international between England and France at Twickenham?
19. *Which jockey, winner of 18* Classics, announced his retirement from racing?
20. Which triple jumper, who was only included in the Great Britain team when she threatened legal action against her original omission, won a silver medal in the world indoor championships in Paris?
21. Which two FA Carling Premiership footballers were asked by Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, to make a public reconciliation after an on-field clash?
22. Oxford and Cambridge universities celebrated their centenary boxing match in 1997. In the early days, the annual fixture consisted of contests in boxing and which other sport?
23. Which horse won the Cheltenham Gold Cup?
24. *In the five nations' championship*, which two countries conceded more points than ever before?
25. Which university won the 143rd Boat Race?

APRIL

26. Which footballer, who plays for an Italian club, paid the travel costs of his country's national team to play a World Cup qualifying game in Africa?
27. Which horse won the Grand National?
28. Who beat Manchester United in the European Cup semi-finals?
29. Which international sports event, staged annually in Britain, had entries from 74 members of the clergy (including three women) and 375 house*wives (including 364 women)*?
30. How many Englishmen were chosen by *Wisden* among their five Cricketers of the Year?
31. Of whom was it said by a previous winner of the event: "This guy, he's in a trance. I think we can all go home now."?
32. Who scored the winner for Leicester City in the Coca-Cola Cup final replay?
33. Of whom did John Major say: "It wasn't just the game he played. It was the way he played it. Quite literally, he is irreplaceable and the way he played will last for as long as the game of cricket itself."?

A. Which cricketers went batty in a NatWest Trophy semi-final?

MAY

34. Which American basketball player wrote in his autobiography that he wanted to change his name to "Orgasm"?
35. Who won the world snooker championship?
36. What species of fish was refused as a record after being caught in an Essex pond, weighing 99lb and being 7ft in length, unless it could be proved that the lake was stocked legally?
37. How many tries were scored in the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham?
38. Which make of car won the Monaco Grand Prix for the first time since 1981?
39. Which former Olympic *athletics finalist helped* Chelsea to prepare for the FA Cup Final?
40. Which jockey was banned for four weeks for taking an amphetamine?
41. Which American female runner was found to have been allowed to compete in the 1996 Olympics despite having allegedly failed a drugs test?
42. Who became the youngest England cricketer for 48 years?

JUNE

43. Over what distance did Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson meet in a race to decide which athlete was the faster sprinter?
44. Which Shropshire and former Warwickshire all-rounder was banned from professional cricket for 22 months for taking cocaine?
45. Who wrote on the front of her T-shirt "Power is nothing" and on the back the words "Without control" after caus*ing an upset in the French* Open tennis championships?
46. Which England bowler took five wickets as Australia were bowled out for 118 on the opening day of the first Test at Edgbaston?
47. Which England batsman made 207 in the first Test?
48. Who won the men's singles title at the French Open tennis championships?
49. Which horse won the Derby?
50. Who became the first Briton to receive a peerage for his services to sport?

B. Mike Tyson puts the bite on Evander Holyfield, but in which round was he disqualified?

JULY

51. In which round of the men's singles at Wimbledon did Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski lose?
52. Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde won the men's doubles again at Wimbledon. How many consecutive years have the pair won the title?
53. To which club did Juninho move from Middlesbrough?
54. Who won the third rugby union international between the British Isles and South Africa?
55. The thirtieth anniversary of the death of which British cyclist *on the* Tour de France was commemorated on July 13?
56. Who finished sixth in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, so securing his first points of the Formula One season?
57. Which county won the Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's?
58. Who was controversially not picked for the individual *400 metres in Britain's team* for the world athletics championships?
59. Which former winner had a first round of 92, 21 over par, before withdrawing from the Open golf championship?
60. Which country produced a Tour de France winner for the first time?

AUGUST

61. How many gold medals did Britain win at the world athletics championships in Athens?
62. Which Manchester United *player had his name misspelt* on his shirt for the Charity Shield at Wembley?
63. Who, in Premiership football matches, are sponsored by Red Card?
64. Which country did João Havelange, the Fifa president, threaten to expel from international football if it introduced *legislation about the adminis*tration of the game?
65. Who broke Sebastian Coe's 800 metres world record?
66. Which country won the Admiral's Cup for the first time for 28 years?
67. Which British swimmer won the European 200 metres freestyle title?
68. Who said in Seville: "I'm very, very proud of what I have done here. I don't accept *that I'm damned if I do and* damned if I don't. I have never felt like I wanted to quit this."

SEPTEMBER

69. Which Spanish golfer was controversially excluded from the Europe Ryder Cup team when he refused to confirm his fitness?
70. Which country initially decided *to continue staging* a World Cup qualifying game on the day of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales?
71. Which city was awarded the 2004 Olympic Games?
72. Which county won the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's?
73. Who beat Greg Rusedski in the men's singles final at the US Open?
74. Who remains the last Briton to win a grand-slam men's singles title?
75. Who was booed before the kick-off between England and Moldova at Wembley after predicting that England *would not win the World Cup*?
76. Which British boxer said about his return to his ring under a new promoter: "In the past, I always wanted to please myself. But now I'm going to please the fans. To do that I'm prepared to fight the best in the world."?
77. Who won the Ryder Cup?

OCTOBER

78. Which British woman won the Chicago Marathon for the second successive year?
79. Which famous British sportsman was found to be suffering from diabetes at the age of 35?
80. Which Test cricketer was charged with refusing to give a urine sample for a drugs test?
81. Which English club had to play the away leg of a European competition in Norway in heavy snow?
82. Who won the European Grand Prix in Jerez when Jacques Villeneuve took the Formula One world drivers' *championship*?
83. In which sport was an Australian player, taking part in an international tournament in France, targeted by a spectator shining a laser beam in his eyes?
84. Who was the Cuban pitcher who won the Most Valuable Player award in baseball's World Series?
85. How many years after the club was formed *did* Florida Marlins win the World Series?

NOVEMBER

86. In which sport did a match between Marie Davies and Marie Leefe make history?
87. Who was sacked as manager of Sheffield Wednesday?
88. Which club knocked Liverpool out of the Uefa Cup?
89. *Who scored a hat-trick* for Manchester United against Feyenoord in Rotterdam in the European Cup Champions' League?
90. Which former international marathon runner represented Britain in a world powerlifting championship?
91. Who accepted an invitation to become the honorary patron of France Cricket, the governing body in that country?
92. In which round did Evander Holyfield stop Michael Moorer for the WBA and IBF heavyweight titles?
93. Which town simultaneously had football clubs whose men's team were bottom of the Nationwide League and top of the Women's Premier League?
94. Which England rugby union player stood nose-to-nose with Norman Hewitt *during the haka before the* match against the All Blacks at Old Trafford?

DECEMBER

95. Which country will England play in their first game in the 1998 World Cup finals in France?

***C. Which goalkeeper* blamed his failings on an addiction to video games?**

96. In which sport did New Zealand beat England 47-35?
97. Which boxer returned to the ring at the age of 38 and outpointed Vinny Pazienza, of the United States, in a super-middleweight bout?
98. Which former Leeds United and Scotland international footballer died this month?
99. Cambridge won the University rugby union match. How many of this annual fixture have they now won in succession?
100. *Which family threatened* to pull out of British horse racing because of the sport's financial situation?

HOW TO ENTER THE QUIZ OF THE SPORTING YEAR

FILL IN your answers on the entry form and send it, with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to:
Quiz of the Sporting Year, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN
to arrive by Friday January 9, 1998. The prize will go to the sender of the first all-correct entry – or, if necessary, the entrant with the most correct answers – drawn from those received by the closing date. The Sports Editor's decision is final and correspondence will *not be entered into. The winners and solutions will be published on Tuesday, January 13, 1998. The competition is not open to* employees of News International, their relatives or agents.

1 ......
2 ......
3 ......
4 ......
5 ......
6 ......
7 ......
8 ......
9 ......
10 ......
11 ......
12 ......
13 ......
14 ......
15 ......
16 ......
17 ......
18 ......
19 ......
20 ......
21 ......
22 ......
23 ......
24 ......
25 ......
26 ......
27 ......
28 ......
29 ......
30 ......
31 ......
32 ......

33 ......
34 ......
35 ......
36 ......
37 ......
38 ......
39 ......
40 ......
41 ......
42 ......
43 ......
44 ......
45 ......
46 ......
47 ......
48 ......
49 ......
50 ......
51 ......
52 ......

53 ......
54 ......
55 ......
56 ......
57 ......
58 ......
59 ......
60 ......
61 ......
62 ......
63 ......
64 ......
65 ......
66 ......
67 ......
68 ......
69 ......
70 ......
71 ......
72 ......

NAME ......
ADDRESS ......
POST CODE ......
DAYTIME TELEPHONE No. ......

73 ......
74 ......
75 ......
76 ......
77 ......
78 ......
79 ......
80 ......
81 ......
82 ......
83 ......
84 ......
85 ......
86 ......
87 ......
88 ......
89 ......
90 ......
91 ......
92 ......
93 ......
94 ......
95 ......
96 ......
97 ......
98 ......
99 ......
100 ......
A ......
B ......
C ......

RACING: FORMER NATIONAL WINNER CAN SPOIL ONE MAN'S TREBLE ATTEMPT IN KING GEORGE

Rough Quest looks ripe for revenge

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

WITH the accent likely to be on stamina rather than speed at Kempton today after an inch of rain in the past 72 hours, conditions are ripe for another upset in the Pertemps King George VI Chase.

Even on his favoured good ground, One Man would make limited betting appeal at short odds in a race which is unlikely to be run to suit him. In the softer conditions — and with the ideal number of runners for an each-way wager — the value definitely lies elsewhere.

In recent years, today's feature race has produced more than its fair share of shocks — the French trio of Algan, The Fellow and Nupsala at double figure prices, not to mention a certain Desert Orchid who obliged at 16-1 in 1986 — and the pair that make most appeal in these conditions are Rough Quest and See More Business, available at around 8-1 and 16-1 respectively.

Rough Quest, second to Imperial Call in the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup before winning the Grand National, was runner-up behind One Man here last year on unsuitably firm going. Terry Casey's soft-ground lover injured his near-fore in that race and did not appear again until putting up a cracking performance 13 days ago behind The Grey Monk at Haydock, where he was not given a hard time once beaten.

Although he could not be covered up in the small field, as the 11-year-old prefers, Rough Quest jumped superbly and was travelling better than the winner approaching the final fence before lack of race fitness took its toll on the run-in. Significantly, the time performances returned by the winner and runner-up — after taking into account weight carried and the softish ground — were among the best achieved by any chasers this season.

Rough Quest, who appears to have progressed since Haydock, travels every bit as well as One Man during a race and he should be able to sit comfortably just off the likely fast pace before being asked by the in-form Mick Fitzgerald to deliver his challenge late on.

See More Business needs to improve to win but the Paul Nicholls-trained seven-year-old is still relatively unexposed over fences and possesses a touch of class. In Ireland last term, he was runner-up twice to Dorans Pride, ante-post favourite for this season's Cheltenham Gold Cup, despite some indifferent jumping. He gave away lumps of weight and jumped better when winning a fast-run Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow 20 days ago, and in Andrew Thornton he has the assistance of one of the most improved jockeys around.

Suny Bay has obvious form claims, judged on his victories in the Edward Hanmer Chase and Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup, but Charlie Brooks has not sent out a winner since the Newbury meeting and his string is under a cloud.

Barton Bank is a model of consistency but would prefer better ground, along with the in-form Senor El Betrutti. Challenger Du Luc is another who travels well in his races and will appreciate a strong pace, but the Martin Pipe runner may be at his best over shorter trips. All of which leaves One Man.

Winner of 15 of his 19 completed starts over fences, he has been giving all the right signals to Gordon Richards recently. However, the secret to his success is a high cruising speed, which enables him to see off his rivals without having to battle. The testing ground today will not help his cause and, more importantly, he will struggle to get the likes of Rough Quest off the bit.

As he has shown in the past, One Man finds precious little if it comes to a battle — and **Rough Quest** is my choice to take advantage.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Solsgirth
(3.10 Ayr)

Solsgirth's two successes have both come at Ayr and the form of his chasing debut victory last time has worked out well. Open to further improvement, he can beat Master Bavard at these weights.

Next best: Lake Kariba
(2.55 Kempton Park)

MARTIN LYNCH

Softer conditions should help Rough Quest take his revenge over One Man in the King George VI Chase at Kempton today

BIG RACE LINE-UP

2.20 PERTEMPS KING GEORGE VI CHASE

C4

(Grade I: £60,980: 3m) (9 runners)

401 221F-22 BARTON BANK 27 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 11-11-10 . A Maguire 196
(br g Kambalda - Lucifer's Daughter) (Emerald green, white stars, emerald green cap, white star)
402 154-222 CHALLENGER DU LUC 13 (B,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 7-11-10 A P McCoy 179
(b g Chamberlin - Islande II) (Royal blue, emerald green sleeves, white cap, emerald green spots)
403 53-405P DJEDDAH 27 (B,CD,F,G,S) (J Martin) F Doumen (FR) 6-11-10 Mr T Doumen 149
(b g Shafoun - Union Jack III) (Pink and blue diamonds, striped sleeves, pink cap, blue diamond)
404 126P-11 ONE MAN 31 (CD,F,G,S) (J Hales) G Richards 9-11-10 . . R Dunwoody 198
(gr g Remainder Man - Steel Oni) (Yellow, red star, yellow sleeves, white armlets, red star on cap)
405 21/12-2 ROUGH QUEST 13 (CD,G,S) (A Wates) T Casey 11-11-10 . M A Fitzgerald 185
(b g Crash Course - Our Quest) (Navy blue, green sash, cense cap)
406 122F-31 SEE MORE BUSINESS 20 (D,G,S) (J Keighley & P Barber) P Nicholls 7-11-10 A Thornton 180
(b g Seymour Hicks - Miss Redlands) (Black, yellow stars, black sleeves, white armlets, yellow cap)
407 16-F211 SENOR EL BETRUTTI 13 (D,F,G,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 8-11-10 . . . . C Llewellyn 179
(gr g Roselier - Rambling Gold) (Purple, emerald green cross of Lorraine, emerald green cap)
408 /512-11 SUNY BAY 27 (D,G,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 8-11-10 . . . . . G Bradley 203
(gr g Roselier - Suny Salome) (Royal blue, white star, white stars on royal blue sleeves and cap)
409 130F-P1 YORKSHIRE GALE 14 (CD,F,G,S) (E Naylor) J Gifford 11-11-10 . L Aspell 164
(br g Strong Gale - Mio Slipper) (Black, red chevron, hooped cap)

BETTING: 5-4 One Man, 9-4 Suny Bay, 5-1 Barton Bank, 8-1 Rough Quest, 16-1 Challenger Du Luc, See More Business, 20-1 Senor El Betrutti, 50-1 Djeddah, 66-1 Yorkshire Gale

1996: ONE MAN 8-11-10 R Dunwoody (8-13 fav) G Richards 5 ran

FORM GUIDE TO THE NINE CONTENDERS

BARTON BANK 13l 2nd of 14 to Suny Bay (5lb worse off) in grade III handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with Djeddah (17lb worse off) pulled up 4 out and Yorkshire Gale (23lb worse off) pulled up 2 out; previously 2½l 2nd of 4 to One Man (levels) in grade II chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good to firm); previously fell in grade III handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Merry Gale 9l in 5-runner grade II chase at Aintree (3m 1f, good) with Challenger Du Luc (levels) 12l 4th and One Man (8lb better off) pulled up.

CHALLENGER DU LUC 8l 2nd of 9 to Senor El Betrutti (6lb worse off) in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good); previously neck 2nd of 4 to Callisoe Bay in handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft); previously 3l 2nd of 9 to Senor El Betrutti (9lb worse off) in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good).

DJEDDAH pulled up in grade III handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with Yorkshire Gale (6lb worse off) pulled up; previously 10l 5th of 13 to Menmont in chase at Auteuil (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft), previously 10l 98th of 17 to Tideliosk in hurdle at Auteuil (2m 3f 110yd, good).

ONE MAN beat Viking Flagship 9l in 6-runner grade II chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously beat Barton Bank (levels) 2½l in 4-runner grade II chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good to firm); previously pulled up in grade II chase at Aintree (3m 1f, good); previously 35l 6th of 14 to Mr Mulligan in grade I Gold Cup at Cheltenham (3m 2f 110yd, good).

ROUGH QUEST 6l 2nd of 4 to The Grey Monk in chase at Haydock (3m, good to soft); previously 12l 2nd of 5 to One Man (levels) in grade I King George VI Chase at Kempton (3m, good to firm) with Barton Bank (levels) 21l 3rd; previously beat Destin D'Estruval ½l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously beat Encore Un Peu 1¼l in 27-runner grade III Grand National at Aintree (4m 4f, good).

SEE MORE BUSINESS beat Indian Tracker 4l in 6-runner grade II handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, soft); previously 18l 3rd of 10 to Suny Bay (2lb worse off) in handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good), previously fell in grade III handicap chase at Kempton (3m, good to soft); previously 6l 2nd of 4 to Dorans Pride in grade II novice chase at Leopardstown (2m 5f, good).

SENOR EL BETRUTTI beat Challenger Du Luc (6lb better off) 8l in 9-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good); previously beat Challenger Du Luc (9lb better off) 3l in 9-runner grade III handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously 15l 2nd of 3 to Simply Dashing in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm).

SUNY BAY beat Barton Bank (5lb better off) 13l in 14-runner grade III handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft) with Djeddah (12lb worse off) pulled up and Yorkshire Gale (18lb worse off) pulled up; previously beat General Wolfe 11l in 10-runner handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good) with See More Business (2lb better off) 18l 3rd; previously 25l 2nd of 36 to Lord Gyllene in grade III Grand National at Aintree (4m 4f, good); previously beat Into The Red 19l in 5-runner grade III handicap chase at Haydock (3m 4f 110yd, good).

YORKSHIRE GALE beat Stormtracker 24l in 5-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good); previously pulled up in grade III handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft); previously fell in grade III handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft).

HEREFORD

THUNDERER
12.35 Shore Party. 1.05 *Fitzmaurice*. 1.35 Weather Wise. 2.05 Raphael Bodine. 2.35 Lord Nitrogen. 3.05 Freddie Muck. 3.35 Studio Thirty.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.35 GOOSE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,178: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

1 153 THE FULL MONTY 28 (G) C Brooks 5-11-5 S McNeill
2 2-35 BUILDER BOY 8 S Brookshaw 7-10-12 S Wynne
3 0P CRADLERS 1406 E L James 5-10-12 M Berry (7)
4 0-60 GALLANT TAFFY 23 Mrs L Williamson 5-10-12 —
5 0 GO BRITANNIA 17 P Jordan 4-10-12 D Byrne
6 00-P JUSTJIM 21 T Freddy 5-10-12 —
7 P4 LIATHACH 13 D Thom 6-10-12 J Culloty
8 41-5 MAZILEO 32 (F) I Williams 4-10-12 E Husband (3)
9 0 NUNS TOY BOY 18 J Bradley 5-10-12 X Aizpuru (5)
10 056 PERRY LARK 575 R Brotherton 7-10-12 G Hogan (3)
11 05-0 SARAS DELIGHT 38 D Nicholson 5-10-13 Mr O McPhail (7)
12 -345 SHORE PARTY 27 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-12 T Jenks
13 00- WESTERN SUN 237 J R Hughes 7-10-12 L Cummins (5)
14 00-0 OUTRAGEOUS AFFAIR 50 A James 5-10-7 Gary Lyons
15 0- OYSTER DELIGHT 272 S Casey 6-10-7 Miss E J Jones (7)
16 0- RISKY ROSE 160F Graeme Roe 5-10-7 D J Moffatt

5-2 Shore Party, 3-1 Saras Delight, 7-2 The Full Monty, 5-1 Builder Boy, 8-1 Go Britannia, 12-1 Mazileo, 16-1 others.

1.05 GOOSE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,164: 2m 3f 110yd) (16)

1 BALIOS 502F W G M Turner 4-10-12 J Culloty
2 F5 DRAMA KING 6 B Llewellyn 5-10-12 Mr J L Llewellyn
3 FIGHTING TIMES 50F C Smith 5-10-12 V Slattery
4 402 FITZMAURICE 20 C Brooks 5-10-12 S McNeill
5 0500 HENRY TUDOR 104 A James 5-10-12 Gary Lyons
6 P-5 JOLTO 18 W Jenks 8-10-12 T Jenks
7 00 LATCHFORD 21 I Williams 5-10-12 E Husband (3)
8 0 MR LAMBRINI 9 Mrs L Williamson 5-10-12 —
9 50 NIGELLO 20 R Alner 5-10-12 Mr J D Moore (7)
10 U050 SEVERN REEF 22 J Bradley 6-10-12 Gary Lewis (3)
11 SHARP PROGRESS 35F A P James 4-10-12 X Aizpuru (5)
12 0-0 SILVER GULL 30 H Howe 6-10-12 G Sheridan (7)
13 412- THE VILLAGE WAY 219 (S) Miss V Williams 5-10-12 S Wynne
14 BIDS OF MAY N Hawke 7-10-7 J P Kavanagh
15 .00- FOREST ROSE 251 M Sheppard 7-10-7 G Hogan (3)
16 45-0 TARA GALE 25 (S) J Neville 5-10-7 L Cummins (5)

7-4 Fitzmaurice, 3-1 The Village Way, 6-1 Tara Gale, 10-1 Fighting Times, Sharp Progress, 12-1 Latchford, 14-1 Drama King, 16-1 others.

1.35 MINCE PIE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,772: 3m 2f) (8)

1 34-6 STAR PERFORMER 137 (BF,G) P Jordan 6-12-0 P Hodges (7)
2 P2PP ST MELLION LEISURE 15 (F) N Hawke 5-11-0 L Cummins (5)
3 6120 WEATHER WISE 4 (BF,G) W G M Turner 5-10-11 J R Kavanagh
4 0(S)P VIA DEL QUATRO 17 (G) J Mullins 5-10-0 J Culloty
5 2524 JUST FOR A REASON 32 (G) R Jones 5-10-2 Mr O McPhail (7)
6 F0/0 PORTOLANO 11 E Sayer 6-10-0 Gary Lyons
7 05P- GREEN KING 228 (B) A P Jones 5-10-0 S McNeill
8 5P-0 THE CHEESE BARON 11 S Mellor 6-10-0 C Webb (5)

3-1 Via Del Quatro, 7-2 Just For A Reason, 4-1 Weather Wise, 9-2 Star Performer, 8-1 St Mellion Leisure, 12-1 Green King, 14-1 The Cheese Baron, 50-1 Portolano.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss V Williams, 5 winners from 10 runners, 50.0%; N Henderson, 15 from 33, 45.5%; N Twiston-Davies, 28 from 103, 27.2%; D Nicholson, 10 from 37, 27.0%; C Brooks, 4 from 18, 22.2%; R Alner, 6 from 43, 12.8%.

JOCKEYS: J R Kavanagh, 11 winners from 61 rides, 18.0%; X Aizpuru, 3 from 19, 15.8%; G Hogan, 4 from 35, 11.4%; S McNeill, 5 from 43, 10.2%; S Wynne, 5 from 50, 10.0%.

2.05 TOTE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,581: 2m 3f) (10)

1 2-51 WAYFARERS WAY 15 (G,S) N Henderson 6-11-10 J R Kavanagh
2 24'P RAPHAEL BODINE 65 (F) Miss V Williams 9-11-10 S McNeill
3 32U- SUPER RITCHART 304 (G,S) B Palling 9-11-4 D J Moffatt
4 F3-0 PURBECK CAVALIER 29 (S) R Alner 8-10-11 Mr J D Moore (7)
5 -6F4 BOLD ACRE 10 (B,S) J Bradley 7-10-11 X Aizpuru (5)
6 -241 WINNOW 15 (D,G) Miss H Knight 7-10-4 J Culloty
7 0P-0 THE CROOKED OAK 22 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-1 T Jenks
8 -452 SENSE OF VALUE 21 (F,S) J Smith 5-10-0 Mr O McPhail (7)
9 2431 CAN'T SAY 6 (S) J Bradley 5-10-0 (7ex) S Wynne
10 0-40 DESERT CALM 17 (B) D McCain 9-10-0 V Slattery

7-4 Wayfarers Way, 5-1 Winnow, Can't Say, 8-1 Bold Acre, 10-1 Purbeck Cavalier, Sense Of Value, 12-1 Raphael Bodine, Super Ritchart, 14-1 others.

2.35 HUGHES CATERERS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,970: 2m 3f 110yd) (14)

1 560- LITTLE GUNNER 314 (S) M Sheppard 7-11-12 Mr J M Pritchard
2 41/ VALIANT 609 (G) T Forster 6-11-9 S Wynne
3 121- SNOWSHILL SHAKER 231 (G) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-8 T Jenks
4 3111 THE BREWER 52 (CD,F,G,S) J Tuck 5-11-1 2nd Preference
5 1452 LORD NITROGEN 10 (BF,D,F,G) B Llewellyn 7-11-0 Mr J L Llewellyn
6 3314 HIGH LOW 10 (F,S) L Jones 9-10-10 Miss E J Jones (7)
7 1-22 CARACOL 10 (BF,CD,G,S) J Neville 6-10-7 J R Kavanagh
8 0141 SECRET GIFT 16 (B,F,S) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-6 G Hogan (3)
9 1-05 STORM TIGER 10 (G) S Mellor 6-10-1 C Webb (5)
10 60-6 LIME STREET BLUES 9 T Fedey 6-10-0 2nd Preference
11 06P- WHITEBONNET 224 (B,S) C Jackson 7-10-0 Miss S Jackson
12 555P MILLING BROOK 9 (G) J Bradley 5-10-0 X Aizpuru (5)
13 013- ONE MORE DIME 216 (F) J R Hughes 7-10-0 L Cummins (5)
14 0P'P STORM POINT 20 (V) H Howe 9-10-0 G Sheridan (7)

5-2 Secret Gift, 9-2 Snowshill Shaker, 11-2 Storm Tiger, 6-1 Lord Nitrogen, 13-2 Caracol, 7-1 High Low, 10-1 Valiant, 14-1 others.

3.05 PLUM PUDDING NOVICES CHASE
(£3,368: 3m 1f 110yd) (12)

1 41-0 BALLYDOUGAN 8 (V,D,S) R Matthews 9-11-5 J Culloty
2 6-13 SPEARHEAD AGAIN 55 (BF,G) Miss V Williams 8-11-5 S Kelly (7)
3 U1-P STRAY HARMONY 11 (G) R Smith 7-11-0 G Hogan (3)
4 12-4 SAGALINO 22 (F,G,S) T Forster 7-10-12 S Wynne
5 161- FIRST HARVEST 272P (F,G,S) C Bennett 10-10-12 Mr P Hardy
6 30-3 FREDDIE MUCK 184 (BF,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-12 T Jenks
7 .50- FROWN 258 (S) P Bowen 7-10-12 J R Kavanagh
8 PPF5 JEMARO 16 W Jenks 6-10-12 Gary Lyons
9 4-0P ORPHAN SPA 8 G McCourt 6-10-12 D J Moffatt
10 PP-P OVER THE WREKIN 21 (B) J R Hughes 10-10-12 L Cummins (5)
11 -6P5 COUNTRY STORE 20 (S) A P Jones 9-10-7 S McNeill
12 4-F4 HOPPERDANTE 32 (S) T George 7-10-7 Mr O McPhail (7)

7-4 Freddie Muck, 7-2 Spearhead Again, 6-1 Sagalino, 8-1 Hopperdante, 12-1 Ballydougan, 12-1 First Harvest, Country Store, 16-1 others.

3.35 BLANDFORD BETTING NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,934: 2m 1f) (12)

1 2305 BAD BERTRICH 43 (BF) Graeme Roe 6-11-12 D J Moffatt
2 1122 DISTANT STORM 9 (B,D,G,S) B Llewellyn 4-11-3 Mr J L Llewellyn
3 63-0 RUMPELSTILTSKIN 43 H Howe 5-11-1 G Sheridan (7)
4 4451 MARGI BOO 6 (S) M Sheppard 4-10-13 (7ex) Mr O McPhail (7)
5 253P DON'T TELL TOM 23 (B) H Haynes 7-10-12 2nd Preference
6 -453 BLAZE OF SONG 20 C Weedon 5-10-12 Gary Lyons
7 B60- POT BLACKBIRD 270 R Brotherton 9-10-9 J Culloty
8 P03 COME ON RISK ME 660 D McCain 6-10-5 T Jenks
9 04-6 DOVETTO 13 A E Price 5-10-3 S Wynne
10 0P-1 STUDIO THIRTY 10 (C,G) R Dickin 5-10-3 X Aizpuru (5)
11 PPF- MR GOONHILLY 309 P Jordan 7-10-0 B Clarke (7)
12 06-6 LADY ROSEBURY 37 A E Price 7-10-0 E Husband (3)

5-1 Distant Storm, 7-2 Blaze Of Song, Studio Thirty, 5-1 Margi Boo, 7-1 Dovetto, 10-1 Bad Bertrich, 20-1 Rumpelstiltskin, 25-1 others.

HUNTINGDON

THUNDERER
12.30 Dominos Ring. 1.00 Garethson. 1.30 The Brewer. 2.00 Gems Lad. 2.30 Edmond. 3.00 Fenwick's Brother. 3.30 Melton Made.

GOING: GOOD

12.30 CHRISTMAS TIDE NOVICES CHASE
(Div I: £2,698: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 2-11 THE TOISEACH 17 (CD,F,G,S) J Fanshawe 6-11-5 R Thornton
2 31-P GEMMA'S WAGER 38 (G) M Campion 7-11-6 W McFarland
3 E23- DOMINOS RING 322 Mrs H Walton 8-10-12 Mr A Walton
4 3F11 HARLEQUIN CHORUS 15 (S) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-12 D Leahy
5 240 HE FLIES BY NIGHT 1018 Miss H Knight 8-10-12 J F Titley
6 P-05 INCH CHAMPION 22 A Carroll 5-10-12 M Richards
7 P-3P MINOR KEY 16 (S) J Jenkins 7-10-12 B Clifford
8 02-2 MUSIC THERAPY 30 T Forster 7-10-12 J A McCarthy
9 6-05 RISING MAN 31 J Gifford 6-10-12 L Aspell (3)
10 12-2 STRAIGHT ON 15 (F) Mrs D Haine 6-10-12 Michael Brennan (3)

7-4 Harlequin Chorus, 9-4 The Toiseach, 7-1 Straight On, 9-1 Music Therapy, 12-1 Gemma's Wager, 16-1 He Flies By Night, 20-1 Dominos Ring, Rising Man, 25-1 others.

1.00 CHRISTMAS TIDE NOVICES CHASE
(Div II: £2,676: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

1 3-16 MARCUS 29 (S) J Gifford 7-11-5 L Aspell (3)
2 5P-0 BALLYMICHAEL 35 G Balding 5-10-12 B Clifford
3 435- BRIDGE END 265P F F Clutterbuck 6-10-12 I Lawrence
4 -222 EFFESPRAY 23 (BF) Mrs S Smith 6-10-12 R Wilkinson (5)
5 50 EXPANSIVE RUNNER 27 A H Harvey 5-10-12 J A McCarthy
6 253- GARETHSON 264 (BF,S) Miss H Knight 6-10-12 J F Titley
7 -123 OCCOLD 25 (BF,G) G Hubbard 6-10-12 Michael Brennan (3)
8 21-0 SELATAN 28 (G,S) D Gandolfo 5-10-12 M Richards
9 1- SHADRACH 272P (G) Mrs H Mobley 6-10-12 W McFarland
10 4230 SUMMER VILLA 49 (B,F) K Wingrove 5-10-7 R Massey (3)

7-4 Marcus, 7-2 Garethson, 4-1 Effespray, 5-1 Occold, 8-1 Shadrach, 10-1 Selatan, 20-1 Bridge End, Summer Villa, 25-1 others.

1.30 CHRISTMAS BOX HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,245: 2m 5f 110yd) (14)

1 67- RING FOR ROSIE 244 (G) T Forster 6-11-10 J F Titley
2 3111 THE BREWER 52 (F,G,S) J Tuck 5-11-9 R Bellamy
3 44-P NORTHERN STAR 15 (CD,F) Miss J Wormall 6-11-5 R Thornton
4 3-53 MISS BRECKNELL 11 Mrs J Pitman 8-11-1 D Leahy
5 P-P4 BARELY BLACK 17 (S) N Babbage 9-11-0 M Keighley (7)
6 5-PP TIGER MAN 16 (G,S) Mrs C Hicks 5-10-13 L Aspell (3)
7 50-1 ERNEST WILLIAM 11 (G) G Hubbard 5-10-10 (7ex) Michael Brennan (3)
8 44-0 MASTER DANCER 22 (F,G) Miss C Dyson 10-10-5 Miss C Dyson
9 253P DON'T TELL TOM 23 (B) H Haynes 7-10-8 J A McCarthy
10 43-0 WANSTEAD 11 (V) J Jenkins 5-10-6 B Clifford
11 90-6 LIME STREET BLUES 9 T Fedey 6-10-5 J Goldstein (7)
12 P4-P CAMEO 8 (C,F,G,S) M Ennis 11-10-4 I Lawrence
13 4222 SLIGHTLY SPECIAL 41 (B) D Thom 5-10-3 R Massey (3)
14 55- EMALLEN 477 (V,C,F) Mrs L Jewell 9-10-0 W McFarland

11-4 The Brewer, 6-1 Ring For Rosie, Ernest William, 7-1 Miss Brecknell, Cameo, 8-1 Slightly Special, 10-1 Don't Tell Tom, Lime Street Blues, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Fanshawe, 6 winners from 11 runners, 54.5%; K Bailey, 25 from 77, 32.5%; D Nicholson, 15 from 57, 26.3%; D Gandolfo, 3 from 13, 23.1%; Mrs J Pitman, 10 from 44, 22.7%; J Gifford, 17 from 79, 21.5%.

JOCKEYS: R Thornton, 5 winners from 15 rides, 33.3%; Michael Brennan, 3 from 12, 25.0%; J McCarthy, 6 from 38, 15.8%; J Titley, 5 from 32, 15.6%; R Massey, 3 from 22, 13.6%; L Aspell, 3 from 29, 10.3%.

2.00 BEDFORD LODGE HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,228: 3m) (11)

1 -212 GEMS LAD 163 (BF,F,G) Mrs S Smith 10-11-10 .. M Richards
2 1-34 OCEAN LEADER 31 (D,F,G) Mrs D Haine 10-11-10 J F Titley
3 /21- SOME DAY SOON 434 (F) M Bradstock 12-11-8 . R Thornton
4 F414 HIGH LEARIE 15 (CD,G,S) A H Harvey 7-11-8 . J A McCarthy
5 65P- STAGE PLAYER 217 (D,F,G,S) Miss C Caroe 11-10-11 I Lawrence
6 -U53 PAVLOVA 10 (S) R Rowe 7-10-11 A Garrity (7)
7 133/ YOUNG BALDRIC 1093 (F) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-9 D Leahy
8 4-34 KARENASTINO 9 (S) Mrs S Smith 6-10-2 . R Wilkinson (5)
9 1-60 WOT NO GIN 32 (F) A J Wilson 8-10-0 Michael Brennan (3)
10 22P3 BLACK STATEMENT 23 J Gifford 7-10-0 . L Aspell (3)
11 0345 RYTON RUN 37 (C,D,F,G) Mrs S Odell 12-10-0 B Clifford

7-2 Gems Lad, 9-2 Ocean Leader, 11-2 Black Statement, 6-1 High Learie, 7-1 Some Day Soon, 8-1 Karenastino, 10-1 Young Baldric, 12-1 others.

2.30 FESTIVE SPIRIT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,583: 3m 2f) (15)

1 60-1 POLO RIDGE 64 (G) O Sherwood 5-11-5 J A McCarthy
2 5 BALLYHARRY 25 P Winkworth 7-10-12 L Aspell (3)
3 -230 BANDY HILL LAD 20 (B) C Morlock 7-10-12 J F Titley
4 0-3 CARAS ROSE 48 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-12 D Leahy
5 F-0P CONQUER THE KILT 21 J Mullins 6-10-12 S Curran
6 0/0- COTTESMORE 345 Mrs A E Johnson 6-10-12 I Lawrence
7 2-2F EDMOND 30 (BF) T Forster 5-10-12 R Thornton
8 3P6U JAVELIN COOL 6 G Hubbard 6-10-12 R Elkins (7)
9 64P- MONTECOT 293 (S) S Mellor 8-10-12 Mr P Scott
10 -4RP PHYSICAL FUN 21 (B) A Blackmore 6-10-12 W McFarland
11 P00 PURE AIR 6 Mrs C Hicks 5-10-12 R Bellamy
12 3 QUITE LIVELY 36 K Bailey 5-10-12 W Walsh (7)
13 66-4 WISLEY WARRIOR 69 N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12 J Goldstein (7)
14 4-50 ARDENBAR 31 J W Payne 5-10-7 Michael Brennan (3)
15 351- SPERRIN VIEW 208P (F,G,S) Mrs H Mobley 11-10-7 M Richards

5-2 Edmond, 7-2 Polo Ridge, 5-1 Bandy Hill Lad, 7-1 Montecot, 8-1 Quite Lively, 10-1 Caras Rose, Wisley Warrior, 20-1 others.

3.00 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,697: 2m 110yd) (8)

1 11-0 PERSIAN ELITE 67 (BF,F,G) C Egerton 6-12-0 . J A McCarthy
2 4311 AUBURN BOY 17 (D,F,G) I Williams 10-11-2 . R Thornton
3 2F1- SLEAZEY 212 (D,F) J O'Neill 6-11-2 S Curran
4 2-0F ABSOLUTE LIMIT 15 (F) J Gifford 5-10-9 . L Aspell (3)
5 25-P NAHLA 31 (D,S) R Phillips 7-10-5 D Leahy
6 0250 DAYS OF THUNDER 37 (D,F,G) Mrs S Odell 9-10-2 B Clifford
7 P432 FENWICK'S BROTHER 8 (F) Mrs S Smith 7-10-1 R Wilkinson (5)
8 4/6- ALCOVE 462 G Johnson Houghton 6-10-0 Michael Brennan (3)

7-4 Auburn Boy, 3-1 Fenwick's Brother, 7-2 Persian Elite, 5-1 Sleazey, 12-1 Days Of Thunder, 25-1 Absolute Limit, Alcove, 33-1 Nahla.

3.30 MISTLETOE STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,508: 2m 110yd) (19)

1 AMERICAN STYLE Mrs I McKie 5-11-4 R Bellamy
2 0- COLTIBUONO 330 M Bradstock 5-11-4 B Clifford
3 GO-ONDYSON N Babbage 4-11-4 L Aspell (3)
4 HULK M Wilkinson 6-11-4 G Bazin (7)
5 20- IN THE VAN 321 Mrs D Haine 5-11-4 J F Titley
6 0- JET SPECIALS 307 Mrs J Pitman 4-11-4 D Leahy
7 0- MELTON MADE 230 S Hubbard 4-11-4 Michael Brennan (3)
8 RATAGAN M Bradstock 5-11-4 I Lawrence
9 RUNNING WATER P Hedger 4-11-4 M Richards
10 0F SALFORD QUAY 17 Mrs J Pitman 4-11-4 W McFarland
11 SEVEN O SEVEN P Cundell 4-11-4 R Thornton
12 SUNUVUGUN O Sherwood 5-11-4 J A McCarthy
13 5- ACHILL RAMBLER 223 (BF) D Nicholson 4-10-13 Mr P Cosgrave (7)
14 COLMARANN Mrs S Smith 5-10-13 Mr J Saville (7)
15 JEANANN K Morgan 4-10-13 P Morris (5)
16 6 MADAM MATCH 25 Mrs H Mobley 6-10-13 Mr A Tate (7)
17 MYSTERE K Bailey 4-10-13 Mr Edgar Byrne (7)
18 00 STRONG SPICE 6 Mrs C Hicks 6-10-13 Miss V Roberts (7)
19 0 THE CAPTAIN'S LADY 37 D Nicholson 5-10-13 R Massey (3)

5-2 Sunuvugun, 7-1 In The Van, The Captain's Lady, 8-1 Jet Specials, Mystere, 12-1 Salford Quay, 14-1 Melton Made, Running Water, 16-1 others.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER
12.40 Zaralaska
1.10 Ottowa
1.45 Doctoor
2.20 Rough Quest
2.55 Lake Kariba
3.25 FRIENDSHIP (nap)

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 SUNY BAY.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 . . B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.40 PERTEMPS CATERING NOVICES HURDLE
(£6,938: 2m) (7 runners)

101 12 ZARALASKA 22 (BF,D,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 6-11-10 . . . A Maguire [illegible]
102 BARON FERDINAND 56F (Lady Rothschild) R Charlton 7-11-5 . C Llewellyn –
103 12 BETTER OFFER 22 (BF,D,F) (Lady Hamson) Mrs A Perrett 5-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 116
104 3P FLYING ON 17 (Mrs D Whiteman) J Gifford 5-11-5 . . . . . D Burrows –
105 56-65 MONTROE 21 (Miss M Tofnell) R Rowe 5-11-5 . . . . . D Bridgwater 109
106 2F-411 SHAHRUR 22 (D,F,G) (Mrs E Kernan) G L Moore 4-11-5 . . . . . A P McCoy 125
107 10-40F ERINTANTE 18 (D,F) (J Vasicek) F Doumen (Fr) 4-11-0 . . . . Mr T Doumen –

BETTING: 4-6 Zaralaska, 6-1 Better Offer, 13-2 Baron Ferdinand, Shahrur, 12-1 Erintante, 25-1 Montroe, 33-1 Flying On.

1996: SANMARTINO 4-11-5 A Maguire (100-30) D Nicholson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Zaralaska 4l 2nd of 10 to Wahiba Sands in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft), previously beat Kurakka 11l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). Baron Ferdinand useful on Flat two seasons ago, only lightly raced since. Better Offer neck 2nd of 15 to George Bull in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good), previously beat Bartholomew Fair 8l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm). Flying On pulled up in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good), previously 7¼l 3rd of 14 to Irish Banker in NH flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm). Montroe 14l 5th of 21 to Country Beau in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). Shahrur beat Bullfinch 2l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). Erintante fell in hurdle at Enghien (2m 1f 110yd, good); previously 21l 7th of 19 to Fadalko in hurdle at Auteuil (2m 1f 110yd, soft).

ZARALASKA is a classy recruit to hurdling and cannot be opposed

1.10 PERTEMPS CITY NETWORK FELTHAM NOVICES CHASE
C4

(Grade I: £22,410: 3m) (7 runners)

201 21/12-2 BENGERS MOOR 21 (D,G,S) (J Townshend) P Nicholls 6-11-7 . . R Dunwoody 128
202 02F0-12 EULOGY 31 (D,G) (N Cooper) R Rowe 7-11-7 . . . . D Bridgwater 133
203 241-F11 FOREST IVORY 28 (D,G,S) (Old Foresters Pins) D Nicholson 6-11-7 A Maguire 115
204 3412/12 OTTOWA 13 (BF,G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 7-11-7 . . . . A Thornton [illegible]
205 312-111 PENTLANDS FLYER 44 (F,G) (Mrs N Bird) J Howard Johnson 6-11-7 A P McCoy 118
206 412-P1F SHEKELS 41 (C,G) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 6-11-7 . . . . G Bradley 133
207 14231-1 FIDDLING THE FACTS 13 (D,G,S) (Mrs E Roberts) N Henderson 6-11-2 . M A Fitzgerald 137

BETTING: 2-1 Forest Ivory, 5-1 Ottowa, Fiddling The Facts, 13-2 Pentlands Flyer, 7-1 Bengers Moor, 8-1 Eulogy, Shekels

1996: DJEDDAH 5-11-7 A Kondrat (9-2) F Doumen (Fr) 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Bengers Moor neck 2nd of 5 to Wise King in novice chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good). Forest Ivory beat Cash Flow beaten a distance in 5-runner novice chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Maybe O'Grady 17l in 6-runner novice chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good). Pentlands Flyer beat Mamica 2½l in 5-runner novice chase at Kelso (3m 1f, good); previously beat Well Appointed beaten a distance in 7-runner novice chase at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, firm). Shekels fell in novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously beat Spring Gale 4l in 6-runner novice chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good). Fiddling The Facts beat Ottowa (7lb better off) 3½l in 5-runner novice chase grade 2 at Lingfield (3m, soft).

FOREST IVORY faces his stiffest task so far, but will be hard to beat

1.45 NETWORK PERSONNEL HANDICAP HURDLE
C4

(£6,769: 2m) (8 runners)

301 14350-0 SILVER GROOM 20 (D,F,S) (Silver Darling Ptnrs) M Channon 7-12-0 . A Thornton [illegible]
302 440-P11 TIBETAN 14 (D,G,S) (Mrs W Brown) Lady Herries 5-11-13 . . . . R Dunwoody 144
303 /312-2P DOCTOOR 14 (BF,D,S) (A Watts & Miss K Whitehead) M Pipe 7-11-7 A P McCoy 147
304 2210F-0 SECRET SPRING 23F (CD,F) (M George) P Hedger 5-11-6 . . . . G Bradley 140
305 /F080-2 KINGSFOLD PET 37 (D,G,S) (Pertemps Ltd) M Haynes 8-11-1 . . . . C Llewellyn 138
306 1114/2- BLESS ME SISTER 418 (BF,D,F,S) (A Palmer) R Rowe 8-10-13 . . D Bridgwater 133
307 11F60-1 SERENUS 17 (D,G,S) (W, M & Mrs E Robins) N Henderson 4-10-12 M A Fitzgerald 142
308 FF13214 NOBLE COLOURS 14 (D,F,G) (S Griffiths) S Griffiths 4-10-0 . . . . D Gallagher 141

BETTING: 15-8 Tibetan, 11-4 Serenus, 7-1 Secret Spring, 8-1 Silver Groom, Doctoor, 10-1 Noble Colours, 14-1 Kingsfold Pet, 16-1 Bless Me Sister.

1996: ALBEMINE 7-10-10 T Kent (6-4 fav) Mrs J Cecil 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Silver Groom 26l 10th of 21 to Major Jamie in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good); previously 13l 8th of 18 to Carlito Brigante in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) with Kingsfold Pet (5lb better off) 22l 11th. Tibetan beat Bama Boy ¾l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) with Noble Colours (6lb better off) 12l 4th and Doctoor (4lb better off) pulled up. Secret Spring 25l 11th of 17 to Mr Percy in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good), previously fell in novice handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good to firm). Kingsfold Pet 28l 2nd of 6 to Kadastrof in novice chase at Kempton (2m, good to soft). Bless Me Sister 3½l 2nd of 6 to Kawa-Kawa in handicap hurdle at Punchestown (2m, good to soft); previously 6l 4th of 9 to Hotel Minella in grade II novice hurdle at Punchestown (2m, good to soft). Serenus beat Namoodaj 2l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good); previously 26l 14th of 28 to Commanche Court in grade I hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good).

SERENUS is progressing well and can add to his Huntingdon success

2.20 PERTEMPS KING GEORGE VI CHASE
C4

(Grade I: £64,375: 3m) (9 runners)

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE LEFT

2.55 NETWORK DESIGN INTERNATIONAL NOVICES CHASE
C4

(£6,970: 2m) (6 runners)

501 04-2111 KADASTROF 18 (CD,G,S) (A Paton) R Dickin 7-11-8 . . . . A Thornton 135
502 56-2111 LAKE KARIBA 6 (D,G,S) (Lake Kariba Partnership) P Nicholls 6-11-8 R Dunwoody [illegible]
503 403-2U4 AMBLESIDE 20 (BF,D,S) (B Yle) Mrs S Williams 6-11-0 . . . . 2nd preference 134
504 3030P4- INTERMAGIC 238 (D,G,S) (J Fox) J Fox 7-11-0 . . . . S Fox 134
505 10164-2 JOHN DRUMM 27 (D,F,G,S) (A Jenkins) P R Webber 6-11-0 . . . M A Fitzgerald 116
506 52-32F3 ZABADI 15 (BF,D,G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 5-11-0 . . . . A Maguire 119

BETTING: 15-8 Kadastrof, 9-4 Lake Kariba, 7-2 Zabadi, 7-1 John Drumm, 12-1 Ambleside, 20-1 Intermagic.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS Kadastrof beat Charming Girl 4l in 6-runner novice chase at Ludlow (2m, good); previously beat John Drumm (2lb better off) 7l in 5-runner novice chase at Warwick (2m, good to soft). Lake Kariba beat Tennessee King 12l in 6-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, soft); previously beat Romancer 29l in 4-runner novice chase at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft) with Ambleside (1lb better off) unseated rider. Ambleside 16l 4th of 6 to Stormy Passage in novice chase at Chepstow (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Intermagic a distance last of 4 to Yubralee in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to firm); previously pulled up handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Zabadi 5½l last of 3 to Wade Road in novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft); previously fell in novice chase at Haydock (2m, soft).

LAKE KARIBA loves soft ground and can continue his winning sequence

3.25 PERTEMPS DESIGNER HANDICAP HURDLE
(£6,827: 3m 110yd) (6 runners)

601 321-111 DARAYDAN 13 (F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-11-10 . . . . A P McCoy 161
602 411F-11 FRIENDSHIP 20 (C,G,S) (T Benfield, W Brown) N Henderson 5-10-8 M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
603 1144-04 HALE DERRING 34 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs V Stockdale) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-3 C Llewellyn 157
604 3/12-23 CLIFTON SET 21 (B,BF,C,F,G,S) (Mrs C Fennell) C Mann 6-10-0 . D Bridgwater 152
605 53-112U TOBY BROWN 14 (G) (A Stennett & Mrs J Stennett) D Nicholson 4-10-0 A Maguire 147
606 31-2122 DECYBORG 25 (BF,D,F,G) (T Neill) M Pipe 6-10-0 . . . . D Gallagher 132

Long handicap: Clifton Set 9-12, Toby Brown 9-8, Decyborg 9-3.

BETTING: 11-8 Daraydan, 5-2 Friendship, 11-2 Toby Brown, 8-1 Hale Derring, 10-1 Clifton Set, 12-1 Decyborg.

1996: TIM 6-10-8 M A Fitzgerald (7-2) J Jenkins 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Daraydan beat Mighty Moss 4l in 4-runner hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good); previously beat Occold 8l in 3-runner hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to firm). Friendship beat Ivor's Flutter 1½l in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to soft); previously beat Grooving 8l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to soft). Clifton Set 14l 3rd of 7 to Maiwood Castle in handicap chase at Exeter (2m 7f 110yd, soft); previously 17l 2nd of 6 to Name Of Our Father in handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, soft) with Hale Derring (5lb better off) 23l 4th. Toby Brown unseated rider in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good); previously 8l 2nd of 5 to Splendid Thyne in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good to soft). Decyborg 17l last of 2 to Simpson in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f 110yd, soft), previously 8l 2nd of 8 to Brackenheath in novice hurdle at Ascot (3m, soft)

FRIENDSHIP remains open to improvement and should appreciate this longer trip

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs A Perrett	3	6	50.0	A Maguire	26	99	26.3
F Doumen	4	10	40.0	A Thornton	5	19	26.3
P Webber	4	10	40.0	M A Fitzgerald	20	110	18.2
M Channon	3	8	37.5	R Dunwoody	17	100	17.0
Lady Herries	5	14	35.7	A P McCoy	9	65	13.8
C Mann	4	13	30.8	C Llewellyn	5	47	10.6

TRAINERS' PREFERENCES

Horse	1st preference	2nd preference
COTTAGE CRAFT	12.45 Wetherby	2.05 Market Rasen
DON'T TELL TOM	1.30 Huntingdon	3.35 Hereford
HAM N'EGGS	1.15 Wetherby	1.25 Ayr
KADASTROF	2.55 Kempton Park	1.15 Wetherby
LIME STREET BLUES	1.30 Huntingdon	2.35 Hereford
LORD HASTIE	3.35 Market Rasen	3.25 Wetherby
SIRERIC	1.30 Sedgefield	1.00 Market Rasen
THE BREWER	1.30 Huntingdon	2.35 Hereford

RAPID RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
KEMPTON 101 201
WETHERBY 102 202
WINCANTON 103 203
MKT RASEN 104 204
W'HAMPTON 105 205
FULL RESULTS FOR ABOVE 168
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS
AYR 106 206
HEREFORD 107 207
N. ABBOT 108 208
HUNT'DON 209 209
SEDGEFIELD 210 210
FULL RESULTS FOR ABOVE 568
Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. IMS, Leeds LS1 8LB

RACING

Lake Kariba to sink Kadastrof

KEMPTON PARK
CHANNEL 4

1.10: Forest Ivory was the best of these by some way over hurdles and it looks as though David Nicholson's well regarded New Zealand-bred could be even better over fences. Since being stepped up to three miles, his jumping has improved and the form of his latest success at Bangor was boosted when the runner-up, Cash Flow, beat Spring Gale at Doncaster. Fiddling The Facts made a successful debut over fences at Lingfield when defeating Ottowa (who previously beat Eulogy at Worcester) and she should frank the form on 7lb worse terms. The biggest danger could be Bengers Moor, winner of three point-to-points, who made an encouraging chasing debut behind Wise King at Sandown and is entitled to improve for the run.

Nicholson: fine chance

1.45 Secret Spring, a winner on the Flat last season and beaten only three lengths in the Cambridgeshire, is sure to attract support, having won here over course and distance. Although not disgraced on soft ground on his hurdling debut, the best performances have been achieved on a faster surface. With a strong pace likely to be set by the front-running Noble Colours, this could be too much of a stamina test. Kingsfold Pet, sharper for a run over fences behind Kadastrof, is well hadnicapped on his form of two years ago and is a confirmed mudlark. The Lady Herries-trained Tibetan has obvious claims after completing a double at Cheltenham when getting the better of Barna Boy. That form should give the in-form Nicky Henderson a clue as to the chances of Serenus, who won comfortably at Huntingdon on his seasonal reappearance despite looking backward. Gelded since last season, he is open to further improvement.

TODAY'S RACING ON TELEVISION

2.20: see facing page

2.55: With Zabadi proving a shade disappointing, this looks to be a match between Kadastrof and Lake Kariba. Both love the mud, but preference is for **Lake Kariba**, who had little more than a schooling session when winning at Uttoxeter last Saturday. The Paul Nicholls-trained runner had been a few kilos overweight so should be spot on here. Kadastrof had to work quite hard to beat Charming Girl on ground which was arguably too lively at Ludlow last time and is better judged on his course and distance success here in November.

RICHARD EVANS

Sparky Gayle seeks return to form

By CHRIS McGRATH

APPROACHING half past two this afternoon, bookmakers will be busy revising their Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup prices — depending on the valour, or otherwise, with which Suny Bay and the like have just acquitted themselves in the Pertemps King George VI Chase. They would do well, however, not to be distracted from proceedings also underway at Wetherby, where Sparky Gayle carries top weight in the Rowland Meyrick Chase.

Sparky Gayle's impressive success in the Cathcart Chase last March not only crowned an exemplary first season over fences, in which he won all six races. For many, it also foreshadowed his return to the Festival in the spring, for the Gold Cup itself.

Such aspirations made him look a compelling proposition when he reappeared back in the Cotswolds last month, carrying just 10st 2lb in the Murphy's Gold Cup. While hindsight now permits one to think better of his fourth to Senor El Betrutti — who has since confirmed himself greatly improved — the fact is that he no longer resembled a Gold Cup horse on his return to the Scottish borders.

In common with many of his stablemates in Lockerbie, however, Sparky Gayle proved to be suffering from an infection. Colin Parker, his trainer, is now optimistic that he can resume what had previously been a sustained record of progress. "He wasn't right that day," he said. "Most of mine have been having problems, but the blood tests are okay and he has been working well enough."

Sparky Gayle has yet to have his stamina tested at today's distance, which he obviously needs to relish if he is to develop into a Gold Cup horse. "I think he'll get the trip," Parker said. "But now it's a long time again since he has run. And he has to give a lot of weight away."

Kempton and Wetherby apart, the Boxing Day programme is more about quantity than quality. Nonetheless, provincial courses thrive on days like this, when rural Britain clears its head in the raw outdoors — and tries to retrieve Christmas expenses.

With horseboxes heading to all points of the compass, journeyman jockeys pick up rides for top trainers, while local yards focus on their favourite courses. Huntingdon regulars, for instance, will be keeping an eye on Occold and Ernest William, from Geoff Hubbard's stable.

Newton Abbot off

THE Boxing Day programme suffered an early casualty when the meeting at Newton Abbot was called off on Christmas Eve because of waterlogging. It is the third year running that the fixture has been cancelled.

LEOPARDSTOWN'S BIG RACES

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

1.30 DENNY JUVENILE HURDLE (Grade II: 3-Y-O: £9,675: 2m) (9 runners)

1	1111	RAINBOW FRONTIER 27 (D,S) (Crock of Gold Syndicate) A P O'Brien 11-0	C F Swan
2	F134	ASTRO LINES 19 (D,S) (Mrs I Foley) K Prendergast 10-9	J Shortt
3	5/3	BEAMISH BOY 19 (Mrs V Cox) D Hanley 10-9	T P Treacy
4		DARK KESTREL 466F (After The Storm Syndicate) G Hourigan 10-9	D J Casey
5	1	KHAIRABAR 19 (D,G) (J McManus) C Roche 10-9	C O'Dwyer
6		NOMADIC 61F (D Sharkey) N Meade 10-9	P Carberry
7	16	SCOSS 19 (D,S) (M Ryan) T Walsh 10-9	Mr R Walsh
8	221	HAMAMELIS 40 (D,S) (Hon S Lawson) M J O'Brien 10-4	T P Rudd
9	12	KEEPING THE FAITH 40 (BF,D,S) (M Barrett) T Carmody 10-4	N Williamson

BETTING: 6-4 Khairabar, 3-1 Rainbow Frontier, 13-2 Hamamelis, 7-1 Nomadic, 8-1 Keeping The Faith, 10-1 Scoss, 14-1 Beamish Boy, 16-1 others

1996: GRIMES 10-9 C O'Dwyer (9-1) C Roche 16 ran

2.40 DENNY GOLD MEDAL NOVICE CHASE (Grade I: £22,750: 2m 1f) (10 runners)

C4

1	354F5-U-	BANGABUNNY 40 (S) (Miss A Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 7-11-6	D J Casey
2	12340-3	DARDJINI 55 (G,S) (High Street Racing Synd) N Meade 7-11-6	
3	4/24331	SEA FISHER 20 (S) (J McManus) A Leahy 6-11-6	C F Swan
4	24-1453	SENTOSA STAR 20 (D,F,G,S) (C Deasy) M Hourigan 6-11-6	
5	3-040U14	SPACE TRUCKER 20 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Queally) Mrs J Harrington 6-11-6	J Shortt
6	1-	BALLYDONNELLY 18 (S) (S Tan) E O'Grady 5-11-4	T P Treacy
7	A0132-1	GREY GUY 55 (D,G,S) (F Conroy) A L Moore 5-11-4	C O'Dwyer
8	0120-32	GUEST PERFORMANCE 20 (S) (S Mulryan) D Hughes 5-11-4	G Cotter
9	5-51118	HILL SOCIETY 26 (BF,D,G,S) (P Garvey) N Meade 5-11-4	P Carberry
10	02520-1	MAGICAL LADY 21 (S) (J McKay) D Kelly 5-10-13	N Williamson

BETTING: 13-8 Hill Society, 9-4 Grey Guy, 6-1 Space Trucker, 8-1 Magical Lady, 10-1 Guest Performance, 14-1 Dardjini, 16-1 Ballydonnelly, 20-1 others

1996: DANOLI 8-11-6 T P Treacy (5-2 jt-fav) T Foley 9 ran

ALEC RUSSELL

Sparky Gayle hopes to make up for his disappointing Cheltenham run at Wetherby today

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
1.00 For Cathal. 1.30 Dark Oak. 2.00 Chipped Out. 2.30 Kildrummy Castle. 3.00 Brancher. 3.30 Diamond Beach.

GOING: SOFT

1.00 RED ONION NOVICES HURDLE (£2,355: 3m 3f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	-221	BIRKDALE 16 (S) L Lungo 6-11-5	R Supple
2	31-1	FOR CATHAL 27 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-5	N Smith
3	0103	MILL-DOT 17 (F) F Murtagh 5-11-5	C McCormack (5)
4	P-PP	ALICAT 32 (B) J Curtis 6-10-12	Mr S Swiers
5	/F-P	FOREVER SHY 11 Mrs K Lamb 9-10-12	Miss S Lamb (7)
6	02	KAKASHDA 9 J Howard Johnson 6-10-12	E Callaghan
7	P3P-	SILLY PET 243P C Pogson 7-10-12	D Bentley

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-1 Mill-Dot, 8-1 Kakashda, 33-1 Alicat, 50-1 Forever Shy, Silly Pet.

1.30 KEN BRIGHT STILL GOING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS HANDICAP CHASE (£3,738: 3m 3f) (11)

1	6-3P	RUSSIAN CASTLE 15 (CD,F,G) J Wade 8-11-11	N Smith
2	UP41	DARK OAK 23 (C,F,G,S) J Curtis 11-11-8	Mr S Swiers
3	P-05	TILTY 8 (V,F,S) A Streeter 7-11-3	T Eley
4	2-UP	ANOTHER VENTURE 16 (S) F Murphy 7-11-3	E Callaghan
5	P24P	RYE CROSSING 16 (B,F) T Easterby 7-10-10	F Leahy (3)
6	2-24	FERN LEADER 23 (BF,S) C Grant 7-10-6	Mrs S Grant
7	03-3	SIRERIC 15 (S) S Bell 7-10-3	K Johnson
8	/32/	KIBBY BANK 721 J Howard Johnson 8-10-2	R Supple
9	3UUP	OLE OLE 17 (V,C,F,S) Mrs E Moscrop 11-10-0	M Newton (7)
10	-506	MISS COLETTE 18 (B,CD,F,G) Mrs D Thomson 9-10-0	L O'Hara
11	422F	TUDOR FELLOW 17 J Wade 8-10-0	C McCormack (5)

3-1 Dark Oak, 7-2 Fern Leader, 9-2 Tudor Fellow, 11-2 Sireric, 12-1 others.

2.00 DURHAM INNS LTD. NOVICES CHASE (£3,103: 2m 5f) (13)

1	-1P1	CHIPPED OUT 16 (CD,S) M Todhunter 7-11-12	C McCormack (5)
2	6-U	APACHE RAIDER 14 F Murphy 5-10-12	L O'Hara
3	/508	CADEAUX PREMIERE 9 (B,F) D Smith 6-10-12	F Leahy (3)
4	00/U	CALLERNOY 25 (S) D Lamb 7-10-12	J Burke
5	U346	CASTLE RED 57 (BF) J Wade 6-10-12	K Johnson
6	2F3-	CROWDED HOUSE 246F (S) B Ellison 9-10-12	Mr R Hale
7	032/	DAVID'S WAY 627 M Peill 8-10-12	D Bentley
8	05-3	EXECUTIVE DESIGN 43 (G,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12	N Smith
9	F0-4	JILLS JOY 17 A Streeter 6-10-12	T Eley
10	-124	RIVER CHALLENGE 20 (G) J Upson 6-10-12	R Supple
11	P/0/	SILLARS STALKER 678 (D,S) Mrs Sarah Harrison 9-10-12	Mr C Wilson
12	/2-3	STAGE FRIGHT 21 F Murphy 6-10-12	E Callaghan
13	2-26	THE BIRD O'DONNELL 28 (G,S) Mrs A Naughton 11-10-12	Mr T J Barry (7)

5-4 Executive Design, 5-1 Chipped Out, 6-1 River Challenge, 7-1 Stage Fright, 8-1 Sillars Stalker, 10-1 Cadeaux Premiere, 12-1 David's Way, 14-1 others.

2.30 RENT ROLL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£3,488: 2m 110yd) (9)

1	F211	THIS IS MY LIFE 123 (D,F,G) Miss M Milligan 8-11-10	E Callaghan
2	2134	MARBLE MAN 34 (D,F,S) M Peill 7-11-6	D Bentley
3	3-14	VAL DE RAMA 17 (CD,F,G) D Smith 8-11-1	R Supple
4	0-43	SHAHGRAM 48 (S) J Hubbuck 9-10-8	B Grattan (5)
5	4125	XAPETE 10 (CD,F,G) N Mason 5-10-7	L O'Hara
6	365-	POTATO MAN 300 (S) B Ellison 11-10-3	C McCormack (5)
7	25-4	KILDRUMMY CASTLE 15 (D,F) J FitzGerald 5-10-0	F Leahy (3)
8	P462	UK HYGIENE 10 (B,D,F) M Hammond 7-10-0	N Horrocks (7)
9	53P6	SHULTAN 23 (F,G) J Wade 8-10-0	K Johnson

11-4 This Is My Life, 7-2 Kildrummy Castle, 5-1 Val de Rama, 6-1 Marble Man, 13-2 Uk Hygiene, 7-1 Xapete, 10-1 Shahgram, 25-1 others

3.00 UNION HALL SIENNA STUD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,723: 2m 5f 110yd) (12)

1	12-1	TOSHIBA TALK 18 (CD,F,S) B Ellison 5-11-13	C McCormack (5)
2	-511	KINDA GROOVY 17 (B,CD,F,G) I Park 8-11-11	N Smith
3	4614	BRANCHER 11 (F,G,S) J Turner 6-11-10	R Supple
4	23-1	BITRAN 9 (G,S) B Rothwell 7-11-4 (7ex)	Mr R Hale
5	1-33	STYLISH INTERVAL 36 (C,F) D Smith 5-11-2	F Leahy (3)
6	6/16	TOPOTHENORTHRACING 29 (CD,F,G,S) P Beaumont 7-11-2	B Grattan (5)
7	F-3P	AMAZING SAIL 23 (CD,F) Miss M Milligan 4-11-1	D Bentley
8	216/	KITTOCHSIDE LAD 596 (CD,F) Mrs A Swinbank 7-10-5	D Webb (7)
9	P3-0	SPRING CALL 8 (CD,F) C Pogson 7-10-0	T Hogg (7)
10	3015	DISSINGTON TIMES 23 (F,G) W McKeown 3-10-0	K Johnson
11	-550	SHELTON ABBEY 98 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Wade 11-10-0	E Callaghan
12	3406	BARNSTORMER 18 (B,F,G) E Elliott 11-10-0	M H Naughton (5)

7-2 Kinda Groovy, 4-1 Toshiba Talk, 9-2 Bitran, 13-2 Brancher, 8-1 Topothenorthracing, 10-1 Amazing Sail, Dissington Times, 12-1 others

3.30 HALLGARTH MANOR HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,583: 2m 1f) (8)

1	RU55	DURANO 20 (S) T Easterby 6-12-0	N Horrocks (7)
2	2024	OUANGO 6 (D,G) J FitzGerald 5-11-12	F Leahy (3)
3	1134	FATEHALKHAIR 48 (CD,F) B Ellison 5-11-5	C McCormack (5)
4	11-0	KIRSTENBOSCH 11 (D,F,G) L Lungo 10-10-13	C Dunne (7)
5	5-43	DIAMOND BEACH 8 (S) G M Moore 4-10-12	E Callaghan
6	/062	GENERAL'S ORDERS 11 (CD,F,S) J Turner 6-10-0	R Supple
7	P304	NOCATCHIM 23 (V,CD,F,G,S) K Morgan 6-10-0	B Grattan (5)
8	6505	RUBISLAW 11 Mrs K Lamb 5-10-0	Miss S Lamb (7)

7-2 Ouango, 4-1 Durano, Diamond Beach, 9-2 Fatehalkhair, 5-1 General's Orders, 8-1 Nocatchim, 12-1 Kirstenbosch, 33-1 Rubislaw

WETHERBY

THUNDERER
12.45 Joe Shaw. 1.15 Ham N'Eggs. 1.50 Kaitak. 2.25 Colonel In Chief. 2.55 Chief Minister. 3.25 Foundry Lane.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

12.45 BOXING DAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,304 2m 4f 110yd) (13 runners)

1	F013	ARDENT SCOUT 11 (D,G) Mrs S Smith 5-11-10	N Bentley	101
2	2F-4	JOE SHAW 29 Mrs M Reveley 4-11-5	P Niven	108
3	P-12	GLENBOWER 18 (CD,G) M Hammond 5-11-5	Mr C Bonner (3)	107
4	-216	JENNIE'S PROSPECT 29 (D,F) J J O'Neill 6-11-5	P Carberry	93
5	/22'	COTTAGE CRAFT 777 W Bethell 6-11-0	M Moloney	–
6	3536	LEAP IN THE DARK 18 (D,F,S) Miss L Siddall 8-10-11	T Reed	118
7	23-0	ARROGANT HEIR 14 D H Brown 4-10-11	Mr S Durack (5)	117
8	-53P	SAM CHAMPAGNE 34 T Easterby 5-10-9	L Wyer	103
9	30-4	NASAYER 16 N Mason 7-10-7	R Garritty	90
10	032P	SECOND FIDDLE 8 O Brennan 7-10-7	M Brennan	106
11	P-31	PRIMITIVE HEART 20 (CD,S) H Alexander 5-10-5	B Storey	105
12	'4-4	EFAAD 20 J Norton 6-10-0	G Lee	102
13	-000	CHAN MOVE 11 W Smith 5-10-0	N Hannity (7)	94

4-1 Glenbower, 5-1 Joe Shaw, 11-2 Primitive Heart, 7-1 Ardent Scout, 10-1 Jennie's Prospect, Leap In The Dark, Sam Champagne, Second Fiddle, Efaad, 16-1 others.

1.15 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICES CHASE (£4,471: 2m) (6)

1	2111	KADASTROF 16 (D,G,S) R Dickin 7-11-12	2nd Preference	123
2	4212	SHINING EDGE 9 (BF,D,F,G) T Easterby 5-11-9	DOUBTFUL	–
3	0PPP	ABBEJAYBUS 11 (B) Miss L Siddall 8-11-4	T Reed	–
4	P3-0	COURT JOKER 23 (G) H Alexander 5-11-4	B Storey	73
5	26-4	HAM N'EGGS 16 (D,F,G) M Hammond 6-11-4	R Garritty	90
6	-040	JOLLY HEART 13 O Brennan 7-11-4	M Brennan	–

4-9 Ham N'Eggs, 5-2 Court Joker, 7-1 Jolly Heart, 33-1 Abbejaybus

1.50 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,215: 2m) (6)

1	2251	NEW INN 13 (D,F,G) S Gollings 6-12-0	Mr S Durack (5)	131
2	1-30	STASH THE CASH 27 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 6-11-11	R Garritty	135
3	-241	DR BONES 20 (CD,G,S) F Murphy 4-11-8	P Carberry	132
4	30F-	KAITAK 237 (CD,G) T Easterby 6-11-7	L Wyer	136
5	/222	HOUSE OF DREAMS 27 (G) G M Moore 5-10-13	N Bentley	131
6	224-	SAMANID 211 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 5-10-9	T Reed	129

9-4 New Inn, 5-2 Dr Bones, 9-2 House Of Dreams, 6-1 Stash The Cash, 8-1 Kaitak, 10-1 Samanid.

2.25 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (£13,509: 3m 1f) (5)

1	11-4	SPARKY GAYLE 41 (BF,F,G,S) C Parker 7-11-10	B Storey	167
2	65-3	AVRO ANSON 14 (F,G) M Camacho 9-11-7	P Niven	173
3	2-04	MAJOR BELL 13 (D,F,G,S) A Whillans 9-11-1	L Wyer	169
4	2111	STRATH ROYAL 20 (CD,F,G,S) O Brennan 11-10-10	M Brennan	168
5	11-2	COLONEL IN CHIEF 20 (CD,G,S) G Richards 7-10-4	P Carberry	168

5-2 Colonel In Chief, 11-4 Sparky Gayle, 7-2 Major Bell, 5-1 Avro Anson, Strath Royal

2.55 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (£7,022. 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1	-405	ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE 13 (D,G,S) Miss M Rowland 9-11-10	P Midgley (3)	150
2	6111	CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 20 (CD,F,G,S) T Easterby 8-10-13	L Wyer	165
3	14-3	CHIEF MINISTER 40 (BF,D,F,G,S) M Hammond 8-10-8	R Garritty	151
4	130-	WHISPERING STEEL 253 (D,G,S) G Richards 11-10-9	B Storey	167
5	/3P-	NORTHANTS 308 (D,G,S) W Storey 11-10-0	M Moloney	143
6	3323	BRAMBLEBERRY 9 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 8-10-0	P Carberry	151

11-10 Cumbrian Challenge, 7-2 Chief Minister, 9-2 Whispering Steel, 8-1 Northants, 12-1 Brambleberry, 14-1 Royal Mountbrowne.

3.25 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (£3,323. 2m) (17)

1	12	FOUNDRY LANE 13 (D,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-4	P Niven	131
2	53	ALPINE HIDEAWAY 16 M W Easterby 4-10-12	P Midgley (3)	126
3	D-	CRAIGIE BOY 174F N Bycroft 7-10-12	N Bentley	70
4	0	FLORENTINO 13 Mrs V Ward 4-10-12	Mr S Durack (5)	111
5	0	GIFTBOX 22 N Bycroft 5-10-12	M Moloney	67
6	6	HOH EXPRESS 29 Mrs J Ramsden 5-10-12	R Garritty	80
7	P-P	INYOUGOBLUE 23 H Alexander 5-10-12	T Reed	–
8	121	JUSTIN MAC 35 (D,F,G) J FitzGerald 6-10-12	P Carberry	–
9	40	LORD HASTIE 13 N Tinkler 9-10-12	2nd Preference	–
10	0-6	MO'S BOY 9 Mrs S Smith 6-10-12	S Pound (7)	–
11	2/53	MR TEES COMPONENTS 47 Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12	G Lee	80
12	6	PROLIFIC AGENCY 17 F Murphy 4-10-12	Mr C Bonner (3)	70
13		RUSK 63F T Easterby 4-10-12	L Wyer	–
14		SHARDANTE W Bethell 4-10-12	M Brennan	–
15	30	SQUANDAMANIA 32 J Norton 4-10-12	R Burns (7)	56
16	P/03	WHATDIDYOUSAY 23 B Bousfield 9-10-12	B Storey	–
17	0-4	SHARLEY COP 15 M Camacho 5-10-7		–

5-4 Foundry Lane, 3-1 Justin Mac, 8-1 Rusk, 10-1 Alpine Hideaway, 12-1 Mr Tees Components, 14-1 Hoh Express, Prolific Agency, 25-1 others

AYR

THUNDERER
12.55 Forzair. 1.25 Common Sound. 2.00 Hopeful Lord. 2.35 Naughty Future. 3.10 Master Bavard. 3.40 Rossel.

GOING: SOFT — SIS

12.55 PORT N BRANDY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,898: 2m) (10 runners)

1	5PF2	RALLEGIO 25 (D,G,S) P Monteith 8-12-8	I Jardine (7)
2	-524	PARSON'S LODGE 18 (B,D,G) L Lungo 9-10-13	W Dowling (7)
3	14	FORZAIR 15 (BF,S) J J O'Neill 5-10-13	R McGrath (3)
4	-PP0	BLAZING TRAIL 18 (B,D,S) Miss L Russell 9-10-2	D Reid (7)
5	0-00	MOUNTAIN DREAM 18 R Allan 4-10-0	J Callaghan
6	/P-0	SYLVAN CELEBRATION 18 J Goldie 6-10-0	B Harding
7	5-00	HUTCHIES LADY 34 R McKellar 5-10-0	A S Smith
8	000	SAGEBRUSH ROLLER 13 (B) J J O'Neill 9-10-0	L Cooper (7)
9	80F6	MEADOWLECK 18 W Young 8-10-0	S Taylor (5)
10	0PP-	POLAR WIND 223 N Waggott 8-10-0	M Foster

13-8 Parson's Lodge, 11-4 Rallegio, 7-2 Forzair, 8-1 Sagebrush Roller, 12-1 Mountain Dream, Meadowleck, 14-1 Sylvan Celebration, 16-1 others

1.25 GOOSE NOVICES CHASE (£2,785: 2m) (9)

1	P-15	LA RIVIERA 16 (D,F) J Charlton 5-11-4	Mr M Bradburne (5)
2	4P0-	CITTADINO 253 (D,G,S) C Thornton 7-10-12	M Foster
3	P-14	COMMON SOUND 11 (BF,D,S) J Barclay 6-10-12	R McGrath (3)
4	-005	ESQUIMAU 10 G Richards 6-10-12	B Harding
5	26-4	HAM N'EGGS 16 (D,F,G) M Hammond 6-10-12	2nd Preference
6	RPP-	PATTER MERCHANT 285P Miss L Russell 8-10-12	D Reid (7)
7	U603	TEEJAY'N'AITCH 18 (D,F,G,S) J Goldie 5-10-12	S Taylor (5)
8	3-22	WELSH MARCH 16 (BF,S) G M Moore 5-10-12	J Callaghan
9	2500	FAME AND FANTASY 20 (D,F) A Whillans 6-10-7	A S Smith

6-4 Welsh March, 9-2 Teejay'n'aitch, 5-1 Common Sound, 11-2 Cittadino, 13-2 La Riviera, 10-1 Esquimau, 16-1 Fame And Fantasy, 66-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G Richards, 47 winners from 202 runners, 23.3%; A Whillans, 7 from 38, 18.4%; J J O'Neill, 20 from 116, 17.2%; C Thornton, 5 from 29, 17.2%; D Whillans, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: M Foster, 5 winners from 39 rides, 12.8%; S Taylor, 3 from 26, 11.5%; R McGrath, 3 from 29, 10.3%. Only qualifiers.

2.00 HOURSTONS OF AYR WINTER SALE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,318: 2m 4f) (7)

1	-124	HOPEFUL LORD 11 (BF,D,F) P Cheesbrough 5-11-5	A S Smith
2	P-PP	EASBY JOKER 20 (D,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 9-10-12	R McGrath (3)
3	5-42	NO FINER MAN 8 G Richards 6-10-12	B Harding
4		HIRT LODGE J Dixon 6-10-9	I Jardine (7)
5	45-2	POLAR KING 32 C Thornton 4-10-9	M Foster
6		TINDLES BIBLE M Todhunter 5-10-9	J Callaghan
7	00-5	PEAK A BOO 16 D Whillans 6-10-7	S Taylor (5)

11-8 No Finer Man, 9-4 Hopeful Lord, 11-4 Polar King, 8-1 Easby Joker, 14-1 Tindles Bible, 25-1 Hirt Lodge, Peak A Boo.

2.35 ALADDIN AT THE GAIETY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,474. 3m 1f) (7)

1	0-20	BETTER TIMES AHEAD 13 (G,S) G Richards 11-12-0	B Harding
2	1/1/	SHINING FOUNTAIN 755 (G,S) D M Forster 8-11-4	Mr M Bradburne (5)
3	13-4	JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN 41 (C,S) Mrs J Storey 10-10-10	Mr C Storey
4	0-26	NAUGHTY FUTURE 29 (CD,G,S) J J O'Neill 8-10-6	R McGrath (3)
5	UF5-	PETER 272 (F) D Whillans 9-10-3	A S Smith
6	34-3	SEEKING GOLD 69 (D,F,G) J Barclay 6-10-1	M Foster
7	13P/	HAG'S WAY 611 (S) M Todhunter 7-10-0	J Callaghan

2-1 Better Times Ahead, 11-4 Naughty Future, 3-1 Seeking Gold, 9-2 Judicious Captain, 13-2 Shining Fountain, 16-1 Hag's Way, 25-1 Peter

3.10 TEXSTYLE WORLD WINTER SALE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,843. 2m 4f) (6)

1	-123	RACHAEL'S OWEN 16 (BF,D,F,G) J Goldie 7-11-10	R McGrath (3)
2	2-35	TRUE SCOT 11 (G,S) P Cheesbrough 7-11-5	A S Smith
3	4621	MASTER BAVARD 10 (F,G) P Monteith 9-11-6 (6ex)	Mr M Bradburne (5)
4	3P-1	SOLSGIRTH 40 (CD,G,S) J Barclay 6-11-4	M Foster
5	45-P	NAWTINOOKEY 16 (B) M Todhunter 7-11-4	J Callaghan
6	232P	MUSIC BLITZ 16 Mrs D Thomson 6-10-4	B Harding

6-4 Solsgirth, 9-4 Master Bavard, 4-1 Rachael's Owen, 8-1 Music Blitz, 10-1 True Scot, 14-1 Nawtinookey.

3.40 WHISKY MAC HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,785: 2m 4f) (5)

1	0S-2	PALACEGATE KING 16 (S) A Whillans 9-11-13	S Taylor (5)
2	0S-3	ROSSEL 40 (C,F,G) P Monteith 4-11-8	I Jardine (7)
3	4-25	PARIAH 16 (D,S) M Todhunter 8-10-7	J Callaghan
4	5-63	MENSHAAR 25 (G,S) L Lungo 5-10-1	W Dowling (7)
5	4/2-	BELLS HILL LAD 408 (S) J Barclay 10-10-0	R McGrath (3)

15-8 Palacegate King, 2-1 Rossel, 3-1 Pariah, 5-1 Menshaar, 8-1 Bells Hill Lad

WINCANTON

THUNDERER
12.50 Just Jasmine. 1.20 Robins Pride. 1.50 Glitter Isle. 2.30 None Stirred. 3.00 Jultara. 3.30 Bet Wiltshire.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) — SIS

12.50 FATHER CHRISTMAS MARES ONLY NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,500: 2m) (13 runners)

1	P5PF	DOLCE NOTTE 4 (F) M Pipe 7-11-3	C Maude
2	-301	JUST JASMINE 25 (D,S) K Bishop 5-11-5	R Greene
3	0	ARDENT BRIDE 25 J Gifford 4-10-10	P Hide
4	0-	AVONCLIFF 268 J King 6-10-10	T Dascombe
5	20	DAISY 37 (BF) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-10	R Farrant
6	0	FRINGE BENEFIT 30 J Gifford 6-10-10	S Laird (7)
7	/0-0	KENTFORD TINA 31 (G) J Mullins 6-10-10	A Bates (5)
8	1-44	KINNAHALLA 11 (G,S) G Balding 5-10-10	B Fenton
9	0-P0	LUCYS RED SLIPPER 13 P Jones 5-10-10	Sophie Mitchell (5)
10	4-14	POTTER AGAIN 37 (BF,G,S) D Nicholson 5-10-10	R Johnson
11	-006	SALLY SCALLY 15 P Hobbs 5-10-10	P Holley
12	0	SILENT ROSE 25 M Pitman 4-10-10	L Harvey
13		TREMLOCH Miss K George 6-10-10	O Slattery (7)

3-4 Potter Again, 5-1 Daisy, 6-1 Just Jasmine, 7-1 Kinnahalla, 8-1 Dolce Notte, Kentford Tina, 10-1 Ardent Bride, 14-1 others.

1.20 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,626: 2m) (8)

1	6-32	MORSTOCK 62 (D,G) R Hodges 7-11-10	T Dascombe
2	3-P5	CLIFTON GAME 37 E Mhorse 7-11-5	D Salter (5)
3	-1F1	STORM RUN 34 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-5	R Johnson
4	2-25	THE CARROT MAN 34 (D,G) P Winkworth 9-11-2	P Hide
5	2514	WHO'S TO SAY 30 (BF,D,F,G,S) Dr P Pritchard 11-10-11	Dr P Pritchard
6	32-6	NORDIC VALLEY 196 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-10-10	C Maude
7	4-62	TROUVAILLE 45 (D,F) A Turnell 6-10-3	L Harvey
8	-P33	ROBINS PRIDE 11 (D,G,S) C Popham 7-10-0	–

7-4 Storm Run, 5-1 Morstock, 6-1 Nordic Valley, 7-1 Trouvaille, Robins Pride, 10-1 Clifton Game, The Carrot Man, 12-1 Who's To Say

1.55 MID SEASON CHASE (£7,068 2m 5f) (7)

1	1030	STATELY HOME 34 (D,F,G) P Bowen 6-11-12	R Johnson
2	1121	NORTHERN STARLIGHT 13 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-11-6	C Maude
3	23-0	AROUND THE GALE 34 (S) D Gandolfo 6-11-4	L Harvey
4	116-	GLITTER ISLE 299 (S) J Gifford 7-11-4	P Hide
5	-2U5	KOO'S PROMISE 10 (CD,F,G) C Popham 6-10-13	R Greene
6	1253	AMLAH 21 (F,G) P Hobbs 5-10-13	R Farrant
7	-5U4	WAYWARD KING 31 (G,S) P Hodges 5-10-12	T Dascombe

5-4 Northern Starlight, 9-2 Stately Home, Around The Gale, 6-1 Glitter Isle, 15-2 Amlah, 25-1 Koo's Promise, 33-1 Wayward King

2.30 WINCANTON GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier £5,056 2m 6f) (14)

1	-PF2	BUCKHOUSE BOY 9 (G,S) [illegible] 7-11-10	R Johnson
2	R30-	DANLING 233F (B,G) M Pipe 5-11-6	C Maude
3	13-6	JET RULES 20 (B,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-4	R Farrant
4	U66-	HARBOUR ISLAND 289 (F) M Pipe 5-11-3	Mr G Elliott (5)
5	2/12	IVOR'S FLUTTER 20 (D,G) D Elsworth 8-10-12	A Procter
6	-153	SPRING MARATHON 27 (G,S) Mrs P Dutfield 7-10-5	P Holley
7	F-23	EAU DE COLOGNE 30 (BF,G) Mrs L Richards 5-10-9	Sophie Mitchell (5)
8	45-2	OLYMPIAN 41 (B,D,F,G) J Neville 10-10-5	L Harvey
9	0234	SHERIFF 20 (F,G,S) J Hill 6-10-2	B Fenton
10	26-1	NINE O THREE 15 (F,G,S) [illegible] 8-10-5	–
11	1-21	NONE STIRRED 23 (G,S) J Gifford 7-10-0	P Hide
12	11P-	AMAZON EXPRESS 470 (D,F,G) P Bowen 8-10-0	DOUBTFUL
13	030-	MUTANASSIB 288 M Pipe 4-10-0	[illegible] (7)
14	095	PONDERING 602 (V,G,S) M Pipe 7-10-0	J Huet (7)

[illegible]

3.00 LORD STALBRIDGE MEMORIAL GOLD CUP (Handicap chase £7,074 3m 1f 110yd) (7)

1	P2-1	SUNLEY BAY 36 (CD,G,S) P Nicholls [illegible]	[illegible]
2	-F52	LINTON ROCKS 21 (F,G,S) [illegible]	R Johnson
3	1313	DANGER BABY 27 (B,F,G,S) P Bowen [illegible]	C Maude
4	-FU3	JULTARA 13 (BF,F,G,S) [illegible]	R Farrant
5	-524	FOOLS ERRAND 29 (CD,F,G,S) G Balding [illegible]	B Fenton
6	1-4U	BRAVE HIGHLANDER 21 (G,S) J Gifford [illegible]	P Hide
7	0-P3	BEAUREPAIRE 16 (G,S) [illegible]	P Holley

[illegible]

3.30 PARKERS CATERERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,444: 2m) (14)

1	4P6-	MR DARCY 270 (BF) M Pipe 5-11-11	C Maude
2	-334	MILFORD SOUND 20 [illegible]	L Harvey
3	0-54	CABALLUS 22 [illegible]	R Farrant
4	6-3-	FABULOUS MTOTO 147F [illegible]	P Hide
5	-533	WELTON ARSENAL 15 [illegible]	R Johnson
6	-065	RUN FOR COVER 37 Mrs P Dutfield [illegible]	P Holley
7	0330	LOTSCHBERG EXPRESS 16 [illegible]	Sophie Mitchell (5)
8		NEGATIVE EQUITY 22 A Turnell [illegible]	[illegible]
9	4653	GALACIA 25 R Alner [illegible]	[illegible] (7)
10	0FG-	DORLIN THREE 221F [illegible]	T Dascombe
11	66-4	ILANDRA 31F [illegible]	P Greene
12	0-4P	CATEMPO 15 (BF) [illegible]	A Bates (5)
13	53-6	SONG OF KENDA 52 [illegible]	D Salter (5)
14	5253	BET WILTSHIRE 18 [illegible]	B Fenton

[illegible]

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 42 winners from 143 runners, 29.2%; [illegible]

JOCKEYS: R Johnson, 6 winners from 27 rides, 22.2%; [illegible]

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER
12.30 Oakbury. 1.00 Bassenhally. 1.35 Cats Run. 2.05 Colour Code. 2.35 Dana Point. 3.05 Non Vintage. 3.35 Lord Hastie.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.30 MISTLETOE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,590. 2m 1f 110yd) (9 runners)

1	1-F0	LUCY TUFTY 157 (CD,F,G) J Pearce 6-11-10	J Ryan
2	F0-4	TOULSTON LADY 16 (F) J Wharton 5-11-9	W Marston
3	0333	THOMAS CROWN 15 M R Bosley 5-11-6	R Studholme (7)
4	0-20	AFRICAN SUN 43 M Chapman 4-11-3	W Worthington
5	-P00	BAASM 17 J Norton 4-11-3	Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
6	0533	OAKBURY 14 (CD,G) Miss L Siddall 5-11-2	T Siddall (7)
7	5040	BRANDON BRIDGE 15 D Geraghty 6-10-6	J Magee (3)
8	4-0P	CHIPALATA 16 T Donnelly 4-10-5	J Supple
9	00-P	TUDOR FALCON 29 (B) P Bradley 4-10-3	D Parker

11-4 Oakbury, 7-2 Toulston Lady, 5-1 Lucy Tufty, Thomas Crown, 11-2 African Sun, 12-1 Baasm, Brandon Bridge, 25-1 others

1.00 BRUCE & JOE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,435: 3m 1f) (10)

1	6-F1	BASSENHALLY 34 (CD,G,S) Mrs P Sly 7-11-11	W Marston
2	4U-4	EASY BREEZY 10 C Mann 7-11-9	J Magee (3)
3	2-32	PEARL'S CHOICE 11 J McConnochie 9-11-8	2nd Preference
4	F-24	BE BRAVE 8 (S) T Etherington 7-11-2	D Parker
5	20-0	LARKSHILL 20 J FitzGerald 6-11-2	J Supple
6	03-3	SIRERIC 15 (S) S Bell 7-10-11	2nd Preference
7	-5FF	DANDY DES PLAUTS 16 Mrs S Smith 6-10-6	G F Ryan (5)
8	P3-1	MARKET GOSSIP 21 (D,G) R Alner 7-10-5	Mr J Tizzard (5)
9	233-	RECORD LOVER 284 (G) M Chapman 7-10-0	W Worthington
10	/PP/	ASK FOR BARNEY 807 B Rothwell 8-10-0	W Dwan

9-4 Bassenhally, 11-4 Market Gossip, 9-2 Pearl's Choice, 7-1 Easy Breezy, 8-1 Be Brave, 12-1 Record Lover, 14-1 Larkshill, 20-1 others.

1.35 CLUGSTON LINCOLNSHIRE NATIONAL (Handicap chase: £9,326: 4m 1f) (7)

1	U61P	HILLWALK 25 (F,G,S) R Curtis 11-11-10	J Magee (3)
2	21-6	PRICE'S HILL 20 (BF,S) K Bailey 10-11-3	P Henley (3)
3	3425	MASTER BOSTON 20 (F,G,S) R Woodhouse 9-10-11	W Dwan
4	-F42	CATS RUN 27 (C,F,G) J Upson 9-10-11	W Marston
5	3312	D'ARBLAY STREET 25 (B,G,S) W Kemp 8-10-0	D Finnegan (7)
6	511-	CERIDWEN 322 (S) T Greathead 7-10-0	W Worthington
7	P-0R	WOODLANDS GENHIRE 42 (B,F) P Pritchard 12-10-0	D Parker

11-4 D'Arblay Street, 7-2 Cats Run, 4-1 Price's Hill, 5-1 Hillwalk, 11-2 Master Boston, 7-1 Ceridwen, 50-1 Woodlands Genhire

2.05 SANDILANDS GOLFING HOLIDAYS MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,514: 2m 3f 110yd) (13)

1	3F	ANOTHER PICEA 47 A J Lockwood 4-11-5	Miss A Deniel
2	004	AUSSIE BOB 34 Mrs S Smith 5-11-5	G F Ryan (5)
3	40	CASUAL CALL 13 T Easterby 5-11-5	S Ryan (5)
4	11-	COLOUR CODE 79F (F,G) Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-5	J Supple
5	/22/	COTTAGE CRAFT 777 W Bethell 6-11-5	2nd preference
6	04-3	DONNYBROOK 17 R Woodhouse 4-11-5	W Dwan
7	45-2	FERRERS 10 (G) Mrs P Sly 6-11-5	W Marston
8		JUICE PLUS 823F B Ellison 6-11-5	D Parker
9	00-	NORMANDY DUKE 381 C Mann 5-11-5	J Magee (3)
10	064/	PRIMITIVE MAN 626 B Temple 7-11-5	O Pears
11	25-0	SIBERIAN HENRY 20 B Smart 4-11-5	J Leach
12	4	TARA-BROGAN 27 I Williams 4-11-5	P Henley (3)
13	60-	MISS MOUSE 226 K Comerford 5-11-0	M Ranger

4-6 Colour Code, 9-2 Ferrers, 6-1 Donnybrook, 8-1 Siberian Henry, 10-1 others.

2.35 ROSELAND GROUP KILVINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,653: 2m 3f 110yd) (6)

1	-441	DANA POINT 13 (G) Mrs S Smith 5-11-12	G F Ryan (5)
2	-F63	MARCHANT MING 11 (B,G,S) M Hammond 5-11-2	DOUBTFUL
3	2-3P	LETS BE FRANK 31 (D,F,G,S) N Chance 6-11-1	D Finnegan (7)
4	3-42	NELTEGRITY 16 (S) Mrs P Sly 6-10-6	W Marston
5	231/	DOCS DILEMMA 770 (F,G) D Shaw 8-10-0	D Pears
6	2143	DOWN THE YARD 43 (C,G) M Chapman 4-10-6	W Worthington

11-6 Dana Point, 11-4 Lets Be Frank, 4-1 Neltegrity, 13-2 Down The Yard, 16-1 Docs Dilemma.

3.05 DUCKWORTH FREELANDER NOVICES CHASE (£3,834. 2m 1f 110yd) (4)

1	4P-4	CHEEKA 23 C Smith 8-10-12	M Ranger
2	6450	JOHN TUFTY 15 (G) J Pearce 6-10-12	J Ryan
3	0405	NON VINTAGE 14 (D,G,S) M Chapman 6-10-12	W Worthington
4	2222	TEJANO GOLD 15 (D,G,S) P Bradley 7-10-12	W Marston

4-5 Tejano Gold, 5-2 Non Vintage, 5-1 Cheeka, 12-1 John Tufty

3.35 RON LANE BIRTHDAY NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,912. 2m 1f 110yd) (14)

1	6523	CARROLLS ROCK 9 (S) C Mann 6-11-6	DOUBTFUL
2	4	SHARK 43 K Morgan 4-11-3	Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
3	4	SHARP EMBRACE 45 F Comerford 4-11-3	S Ryan (5)
4	64-3	SALLY'S TWINS 41 N Chance 4-11-1	D Finnegan (7)
5	PP/5	AWESOME VENTURE 8F M Chapman 7-11-0	W Worthington
6	3	GUY'S GAMBLE 16 J Wharton 4-10-11	W Marston
7	40	LORD HASTIE 13 N Tinkler 9-10-11	O Pears
8	4	FORGET PARIS 14 B Rothwell 4-10-9	DOUBTFUL
9	5	LADY SILK 22 Miss J Craze 6-10-9	S Webster
10	3241	BAHER 10 (S) S Clark 6-10-8	Miss R Clark (5)
11	00	KATATONIC 17 Mrs L Jewell 4-10-5	R Studholme (7)
12	180	STEAM ON 17 (D,G) Mrs L Jewell 6-10-5	P Henley (3)
13	5	JILLY BEVELED 18 B Ellison 5-10-0	D Parker
14	U-PP	REGAL JEST 49 B Murray 7-10-0	W Dwan

2-1 Sally's Twins, 3-1 Shark, 11-2 Lord Hastie, 13-2 Baher, 12-1 Steam On, 14-1 Guy's Gamble, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

MARKET RASEN: Trainers: N Chance, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; C Mann, 5 from 17, 29.4%; J Pearce, 6 from 21, 28.6%; K Bailey, 14 from 50, 28.0%; T Easterby, 4 from 17, 23.5%; Mrs P Sly, 4 from 21, 19.0%. Jockeys: W Marston, 5 winners from 35 rides, 14.3%; J Ryan, 7 from 58, 12.1%. Only qualifiers.

SEDGEFIELD: Trainers: Mrs M Reveley, 72 winners from 261 runners, 27.6%; J Fitzgerald, 15 from 55, 27.3%; T Easterby, 7 from 27, 25.9%; I Park, 7 from 27, 25.9%; S Bell, 3 from 12, 25.0%; N Mason, 7 from 32, 21.9%. Jockeys: M Newton, 3 winners from 11 rides, 27.3%; C McCormack, 8 from 35, 22.9%; E Callaghan, 10 from 49, 20.4%; N Smith, 14 from 96, 14.6%; Mr S Swiers, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

WETHERBY: Trainers: Mrs M Reveley, 52 winners from 196 runners, 26.5%; G Richards, 28 from 122, 23.0%; T Easterby, 18 from 82, 22.0%; O Brennan, 5 from 26, 19.2%; F Murphy, 3 from 19, 15.8%; J Fitzgerald, 15 from 99, 15.2%; Mrs S Smith, 15 from 107, 14.0%. Jockeys: P Niven, 47 winners from 184 rides, 25.5%; P Carberry, 12 from 50, 24.0%; L Wyer, 39 from 166, 23.5%; M Brennan, 5 from 29, 17.2%; G Lee, 3 from 24, 12.5%; Mr C Bonner, 3 from 29, 10.3%.

Blinkered first time

AYR: 12.55 Parson's Lodge, Blazing Trail, Sagebrush Roller. HEREFORD: 2.35 Storm Point. 3.05 Over The Wrekin. HUNTINGDON: 2.30 Physical Fun. MARKET RASEN: 2.35 Marchant Ming. SEDGEFIELD: 1.00 Alicat. 1.30 Miss Colette. 2.00 Cadeaux Premiere. 2.30 UK Hygiene. WINCANTON: 2.30 Jet Rules. WOLVERHAMPTON: 3.50 Head Gardener, Red Phantom. 4.20 Muara Bay. 4.50 Orange Place.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
1.15 Double-O. 1.40 Other Club. 2.15 Touchanova. 2.45 Italian Symphony. 3.15 Democrat. 3.50 Rex Mundi. 4.20 Soldier Cove. 4.50 Mercury.

GOING: STANDARD — SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.15 CHRIS MASSEYS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HANDICAP (Div I: £2,401: 6f) (8 runners)

1	0003	TAKHLID 13 (CD,F,S) D Chapman 6-10-0	A Culhane 5
2	0000	DOUBLE-O 13 (CD) W Jarvis 3-9-13	J Quinn 2
3	1603	RAMSEY HOPE 7 (V,C,D,F) C Fairhurst 4-9-11	P Roberts (3) 3
4	4304	MIKE'S DOUBLE 24 (B,CD) Gay Kelleway 3-9-7	A Whelan (3) 1
5	0630	NAPIER STAR 8 (V,C,D) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-7	D Biggs 4
6	5313	VILLAGE NATIVE 18 (B,C,D,F) K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-2	A Clark 8
7	0002	U-NO-HARRY 35 (D,F) R Hollinshead 4-8-8	F Lynch 6
8	0044	RENNYHOLME 18 (C) A Mulholland 6-7-11	D Wright 7

3-1 Village Native, 4-1 Ramsey Hope, 5-1 Takhlid, 6-1 U-No-Harry, 7-1 Mike's Double, Rennyholme, 8-1 Napier Star, 16-1 Double-O

1.40 BREAD SAUCE MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,306: 1m 100yd) (6)

1	-600	BLOOD ORANGE 31 G Margarson 9-0	A Clark 2
2	2	BONGO 214 C Thornton 9-0	M Tebbutt 1
3	0323	FAYIK 16 A Newcombe 9-0	J Quinn 6
4	66-3	OTHER CLUB 31 J Toller 9-0	T Williams 4
5	602	AHLIYAT 54 J Hills 8-9	W Ryan 3
6	0460	PATINA 20 R Hollinshead 8-9	F Lynch 5

7-4 Ahliyat, 3-1 Fayik, 100-30 Other Club, 4-1 Bongo, 16-1 others

2.15 CHRISTMAS PUDDING CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,294. 6f) (9)

1	5000	COMEOUTOFTHEFOG 111 D Ffrench Davis 8-13	S Drowne 5
2		TREACLE JONES N Tinkler 8-13	W Ryan 3
3	4050	FROLICKING 35 N Littmoden 8-8	S Whitworth 8
4	5006	NIGHT AUCTION 4 B Palling 8-4	T Williams 9
5	0200	STRAVSEA 142 B Baugh 8-4	R Lappin 7
6	0000	MAGGICE 20 R Hollinshead 8-2	Martin Dwyer 6
7	0000	TOUCHANOVA 4 G Margarson 8-0	J Quinn 2
8	00	JUST FOR TINA 4 W G M Turner 7-12	A McCarthy (7) 4
9	00	POLLYDULI 18 N Littmoden 7-12	D Wright 1

7-4 Frolicking, 5-1 Night Auction, 7-1 Stravsea, Just For Tina, 10-1 others.

2.45 CHRIS MASSEYS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HANDICAP (Div II: £2,388: 6f) (8)

1	0001	ELITE HOPE 35 (CD,G) N Tinkler 5-10-0	W Ryan 1
2	4010	ITALIAN SYMPHONY 13 (V,CD) P Evans 3-9-11	A McCarthy (7) 4
3	0265	EASTERN PROPHETS 13 (BF,D,F,S) G Lewis 4-9-9	A Clark 8
4	43P0	MULLAGH HILL LAD 13 (C) N Littmoden 4-9-7	S Whitworth 3
5	-000	REDOUBTABLE 8 (D,F,G) D Chapman 6-3-4	A Culhane 2
6	0026	CORNICHE QUEST 27 (D,F) M Channon 4-8-12	A Eddery (7) 6
7	0020	DEERLY 8 (BF,D,G) R Dickin 4-8-3	P Mundy (7) 5
8	0335	RIVER ENSIGN 22 (D,G) W M Brisbourne 4-7-10	J Quinn 7

3-1 Eastern Prophets, 4-1 Italian Symphony, 5-1 Elite Hope, 6-1 Redoubtable, 7-1 Deerly, 8-1 Corniche Quest, 10-1 Mullagh Hill Lad, River Ensign

☐ *Democrat attempts to prove himself one of* the most improved all-weather performers in the Hague Fasterners Handicap at Wolverhampton. The Mark Prescott-trained gelding has risen 32lb in the handicap while completing a four-timer on sand.

3.15 HAGUE FASTENERS HANDICAP (£4,963: 1m 100yd) (9)

[illegible]

3.50 TURKEY SELLING STAKES (£1,999: 1m 4f) (10)

[illegible]

4.20 PARSONS NOSE HANDICAP (Div I: £1,944: 1m 1f 79yd) (11)

[illegible]

4.50 PARSONS NOSE HANDICAP (Div II. £1,944: 1m 1f 79yd) (10)

[illegible]

COURSE SPECIALISTS

[illegible]

RUGBY UNION

Pace-setting Saracens let the good times roll

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THERE has been a constant refrain running round Watford this season as, one by one, Saracens have picked off their potential rivals in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division: championships, the refrain goes, are not won around Christmas. Yet it is infinitely more comfortable to perch on the top of the pile than to be craning one's neck upwards all the time.

Victory for Saracens against Leicester today would end a year of continual growth. It would provide the club with the perfect launching pad for the development schemes that they have in store for the Watford community, among whom they came to live in August.

Not that Saracens will take victory at Vicarage Road for granted. It took them 32 years of trying before they secured their first win over Leicester, although they have won the past two league games played in London at, respectively, Southgate and Enfield.

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Saracens	7	7	0	0	195	103	14
Newcastle	6	6	0	0	180	109	12
Leicester	6	4	0	2	169	113	8
Richmond	8	4	0	4	187	159	8
Harlequins	7	4	0	3	187	188	8
Sale	7	3	0	4	232	201	6
Northampton	7	3	0	4	163	141	6
Bath	6	3	0	3	176	169	6
Gloucester	6	2	0	4	147	149	4
Wasps	5	1	0	4	109	153	2
London Irish	6	1	0	5	90	190	2
Bristol	7	1	0	6	92	252	2

Yet they will not be short of confidence: their unbeaten seven-match Premiership run includes victories at two uncomfortable away venues, Sale and Northampton, as well as the notable win at Loftus Road which set Wasps, the 1997 champions, on their giddy downward spiral. Just as significant was the utter dismissal of Bath in their last home match, which was an indication of the standards they now expect of themselves.

"The club has changed dramatically and the attitude of the players has changed too," Tony Diprose, the Saracens captain, said. Diprose has seen the bad times, in the second division at Southgate, and he has been an integral part of the rise and rise of Saracens, fuelled since 1995 by Nigel Wray's money, which has taken them to the top of the first division. It is an ascent which has helped Diprose himself to international honours at No 8, including games this autumn against Australia and New Zealand.

That, in turn, has heightened his own ambition and confidence: "I came back from those four weeks with England believing in my ability to play at that level and not only that, to be a force at that level," Diprose said. "I want more of it."

He is a key member of the influential middle five — back row and half backs — who direct operations on the field at Watford, though both Diprose and Mark Evans, the director of rugby, acknowledge the influence brought to bear by Francois Pienaar in his coaching role as well as his formidable skills at flank forward.

"You can't under-sell the influence Francois has had," Evans said. "He sets standards, he has drawn on his experience and we have learnt from it."

At full strength, Saracens can field three England internationals — Diprose, Richard Hill (absent today with an injury) and Kyran Bracken — one South Africa cap in Pienaar and Australia's Michael Lynagh in those five key positions. It is a battery of talent and experience unmatched in the Premiership: who else, after all, can field two World Cup-winners in that area, never mind the skills of the world's most-capped player, Philippe Sella, further out at centre.

"Michael is playing at a different level to last year, when he spent so much time recovering from a shoulder injury," Diprose said. "He controls a lot of our play and I have picked up a great deal from his captaincy experience.

"It's an easy job, captaincy, when you are winning but a lot of the work is done beforehand, in training, so that when the time for decisions arrives on the field, we're all on the same wavelength anyway."

The club has worked hard on fitness, too, under the direction of Mike Yates whose son, Matthew, is an international 1,500 metres runner. "Francois has told Mike that he wants us to be the fittest team in the country," Diprose said, "and we're still working on it. It's taken the team a while to come together, which is not surprising with all the newcomers there have been.

"Last season we put together some really good performances on a one-off basis, but to get the consistency you need has taken longer. But winning has become a contagious habit; I've been down the bottom end of the league and it's not much fun."

Saracens have reached their present eminence, moreover, with England-qualified talent in key positions: not only are Diprose and Bracken part of the side's spine, they have Greg Botterman at hooker and Matt Singer at full back. Behind Botterman, an England replacement against Wales in 1996, is George Chuter, only 21 and developing fast since his move from Old Mid-Whitgiftians, while the midfield includes one of the most under-rated of English players, Steve Ravenscroft.

Yet there are demanding games to come, not least the visits to Newcastle and Bath which must be made. That is for the new year: this afternoon Leicester bring with them, for the first time in their history, a forward pack made up completely of internationals, six of them English and reinforced by Fritz van Heerden (South Africa) and Eric Miller (Ireland).

Joel Stransky, their South Africa fly half, has recovered more quickly than expected from the rib injury he sustained against Richmond teh days ago and joins forces at half back with Waisale Serevi but Will Greenwood, the England centre, will be absent. He has damaged a shoulder, which gives James Overend the chance to start a Premiership game for the first time this season.

Overend, 23, has suffered from a succession of shoulder injuries since joining Leicester two years ago yet, in his 14 appearances for the club, he has yet to finish on the losing side. That is a record he and his colleagues would be happy to see sustained today.

Since his arrival last year, Pienaar has been setting the standards at Saracens on and off the field

Protective kit may create more danger

GERALD DAVIES

The injury to Gwyn Jones, the Wales captain and Cardiff flanker, and his subsequent retirement from rugby has turned our rugby grounds into places of ruminative melancholy. That it takes so severe an injury to remind us that rugby is a perilous game, is a sad comment on how easily we tend to forget. So imperfect a game, where risk and the scent of danger forms no small fraction of its attraction, requires eternal vigilance and care.

Professional sport, believing that toughness of mind and a hard competitive edge are essential virile qualities and preferring to avoid a benign mood during good times, chases the "entertainment dollar" as if nothing else matters. Rugby still needs the sensitive touch, now more than ever. Amateurism, for all its weaknesses, worked because it relied on trust and benevolence. Because it was a game and not a business, that it was essentially for the player and not for the spectator, the focus was less on pleasing other people, less on spurring on the game for the sake of entertainment.

Rugby union should attempt to salvage some of that old-time gentleman's way of conducting its affairs. This, of course, was much derided in its time. The attitude will forever be encapsulated in Will Carling's immemorial if unfortunate phrase about the 57 varieties that made up the ruling body at Twickenham.

We were left with a vision of a blazered bunch of buffoons. That they were nothing of the sort should not get in the way of the joke. But they had their hearts in the right place.

Who is to say that rugby, worldwide, may be any better under a new breed of official. The drift is not encouraging at the moment.

Let us begin by lodging a complaint about the increased use of protective clothing. For, while this kit is seen as necessary to prevent too many injuries, it may inadvertently encourage greater danger.

The so-called hard hits are nowadays commonplace. The shoulder padding is deemed therefore to be essential. Such protection, it is argued, can no longer be avoided.

The other side of the coin is that increased protection gives licence for the hits to the body to become harder and more frequent. Hitherto, the game's ruling authorities have eschewed the use of thigh padding but it is only a matter of time that, with the advantage shoulder padding gives the tackler, so must the tackled player be compensated with similar protection. Thigh padding will soon be used.

That being the case, since the head gets to be in close proximity to the physical confrontation, this most sensitive of areas will inevitably need protection, too. So that, of the couple of examples of headgear we see at any one fixture, we shall have to expect every player to wear it soon.

Thus, the accepted parameters within which the game has hitherto been played are modified. But in so doing, the attitudes and the levels of tolerance are irrevocably changed. A basic principle has been sacrificed. A tackle could only be as hard as the tolerance of the hurt; flesh against flesh. With body protection, this ceases to be the case.

This is the thin edge of the wedge. To begin with, no padding was allowed. Later, protective clothing could be worn when a player was injured. This progressed to allow a player to wear padding of a certain type if it conformed to certain guidelines of softness.

It transpires that this season it is permissible to wear shoulder pads. It is but a short step to allow harder and tougher material of the kind American footballers wear. When, one wonders, will helmets arrive on the scene?

What motivates the changes? Is it truly for the protection of players or is it the case that, by agreeing such protection, the rugby union authorities can allow their game to become more powerful and more confrontational.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When your partner opens in a suit and you as a non-passed hand respond by making a single jump in a new suit, that is forcing to game. It is known as a jump shift. Here are two examples: 1 H - 2 S or 1 S - 3 C.

Now what should be the characteristic of the hand that makes the jump shift? First, it is not necessary to jump in a new suit just because you have game-going values: if you make a minimum response in a new suit, that is forcing, and you can either go to game on the next round of the auction or make a further forcing bid.

As the jump shift uses an extra round of bidding, the modern style is to use it in a specialised way: responder has either a good one-suited hand, or a hand with primary support for the opener's suit, in both cases with high-card strength equivalent to at least 15 or so. For example, suppose your partner opens One Heart and you hold one of the following:

1) ♠ KQJ10843
♥ 5
♦ AK4
♣ K3

2) ♠ AKJ105
♥ KJ105
♦ 7
♣ A63

3) ♠ KQ1065
♥ Q4
♦ AQ7
♣ KJ4

These are all Two Spades responses. With (1) you intend to rebid Three Spades to show your fine suit; with (2) you support hearts on the next round (or cue-bid to show your support); and with (3) you intend to rebid Three No-Trumps to show your balanced hand and outside stoppers.

Now suppose you hold:

4) ♠ KQ652
♥ 6
♦ AK1064
♣ A6

5) ♠ Q87542
♥ A6
♦ AK
♣ KQ2

6) ♠ KQ1065
♥ A4
♦ AKQ
♣ 872

None of these hands is suitable for an initial force, although they are just as strong as the first examples. Two-suited hands are better treated by starting with a minimum response, to save bidding space. With that understanding, you can't bid Two Spades with (4); if your partner bids Three Hearts, Four Diamonds by you would be a cue-bid in support of hearts. Anyway, 3NT might be the right spot: start by bidding One Spade and continue with Three Diamonds over Two Hearts.

Hand (5) is unsuitable for a jump shift because its suit is not strong enough. The suit should be headed by two of the top three honours, though a suit headed by AJ10 or KJ10 would just be acceptable.

The problem with Hand (6) is that you would not know what to rebid if partner bid Three Hearts. If you raised him to Four Hearts he would expect better support, perhaps a hand more like (2) above: if you rebid Three No-Trumps you may find the club suit wide open. Better to bid a simple One Spade and see what partner bids.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABATON
a. A manual calculator
b. Without a baton
c. A temple dormitory

EWIGKEIT
a. Honesty
b. Eternity
c. Fear of furry things

BOONGARY
a. A throwing-stick
b. A tree kangaroo
c. A shooting game

ECTROMELIA
a. Turning outwards
b. No limbs
c. A dwarf shrub

Answers on page 37

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British battle

Viswanathan Anand, the Indian grandmaster, dispatched Boris Gelfand to reach the final of the qualifying competition in the Fide world championship in Groningen, Holland. The two-game battle between the British grandmasters, Michael Adams and Nigel Short, ended in deadlock but Adams emerged victorious in the play-offs and now faces Anand in the final.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Nigel Short
Fide world championship
Groningen, December 1997

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nc3	e6
3	Nf3	a6
4	g3	b5
5	Bg2	Bb7
6	d4	Nf6
7	Bg5	cxd4
8	Nxd4	h6
9	Bxf6	Qxf6
10	0-0	Nc6
11	Nxc6	dxc6
12	Qe2	e5
13	a4	b4
14	Nb1	a5
15	Qe3	Bd6
16	Nd2	Qe7
17	Nb3	c5
18	Nd2	Ba6
19	Rfd1	c4
20	Bf1	Bc5
21	Qf3	Qe6
22	b3	Bd4
23	Rab1	c3
24	Bxa6	Rxa6
25	Nc4	0-0
26	Ne3	g6
27	Re1	Rc6
28	Rbd1	Rc5
29	Kg2	f5
30	exf5	gxf5
31	Nc4	Rxc4
32	bxc4	Qxc4
33	Qb7	Rf7
34	Qb8+	Kh7
35	f4	Qa2
36	fxe5	Qxc2+
37	Kh3	f4
38	e6	Qf5+
39	g4	Qd5
40	Rd3	Rf6
41	Qc7+	

Black resigns

White: Nigel Short
Black: Michael Adams

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	0-0
8	c3	d6
9	h3	Nd7
10	d4	Nb6
11	a3	Bf6
12	Ba2	Bb7
13	Be3	d5
14	Nxe5	Nxe5
15	dxe5	Bxe5
16	Bxb6	cxb6
17	Bxd5	Bxd5
18	exd5	Re8
19	a4	b4
20	Ra2	Ra7
21	cxb4	Rae7
22	Kf1	Qd6
23	b3	Qxb4
24	Nd2	g6
25	Re4	Qc5
26	Nf3	Bc3
27	Rxe7	Rxe7
28	Rc2	b5
29	Qd3	b4
30	Rc1	Qd6
31	g3	Kg7
32	Kg2	h6
33	Rd1	Rc7
34	Qe4	Re7
35	Qd3	Rc7
36	Nd2	Bxd2
37	Rxd2	a5
38	Qd4+	Kg8
39	Qf4	Qd7
40	d6	Rc5
41	Qe4	h5
42	Kh2	h4
43	Qe7	hxg3+
44	bxg3	

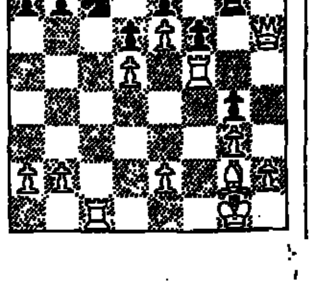
Black resigns

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Euwe - Nestler, Dubrovnik 1950.

White's pawn wedge on d5 and e6 cuts the black position in two and enabled him to conclude the game with a neat combination. How did he continue?



Solution on page 37

CRICKET: NEW ZEALAND STAND BETWEEN CHAMPIONS AND PLACE IN FINAL

England's cup mettle faces stern test

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN MADRAS

AFTER three weeks of travelling within India and Christmas in steamy Madras, England will today play their most important game in four years. At stake is a place in the final of the women's World Cup and, to add further spice to the encounter, England's opponents are New Zealand, whom they beat in the last World Cup final, at Lord's in 1993.

So far, England have not played like world champions. South Africa could easily have beaten them in the opening match in Hyderabad, where England won by seven runs. Then came the run feasts against Pakistan, Denmark and Ireland, but they were not adequate preparation for Australia, who beat England easily in Nagpur in the last qualifying match.

That defeat was the low point of the tour and it was compounded by the exhausting itinerary. In 23 days in India, England have had five flights, five coach journeys and a six-hour train ride, as well as eight games of cricket.

Patience has worn thin in the England camp and breaking-point nearly came on the journey from Delhi to Madras for this match when, after a 3.30am alarm call, the flight was delayed until past midday due to fog.

India's second one-day international, against Sri Lanka in Indore, was abandoned after 18 balls yesterday when officials ruled that the pitch was too dangerous for play.

England played New Zealand at home in 1996 and, although they were beaten 3-0 in the one-day internationals, they will at least know what to expect.

Changes will be made to the team that contested the quarter-final against Sri Lanka. There is a feeling that Debbie Hockley, who tormented England in 1996, averaging 82 in the one-day internationals and 94 in the Test matches, is susceptible to slow bowling, especially leg spin, at the start of her innings.

Kathryn Leng will therefore return in place of Laura Macleod and Karen Smithies will continue to open the bowling. England will also be looking to the leg spin of Charlotte Edwards, which should allow Helen Plimmer to retain her place on the strength of her fielding.

Hockley may have a weakness against spin but she has already scored two centuries in this World Cup and much will depend on how quickly she is dismissed.

Australia, who beat India in the first semi-final yesterday await the winner of this match. If England lose today, they will be spectators at Eden Gardens for the final, and there can be no greater incentive to avoid defeat than that.

AUSTRALIA

B Clark lbw b Bhatt	31
J Broadbent run out	33
M Jones lbw b Bhatt	5
M Goszki b Bhatt	0
K Rolton not out	23
B Calver c Harikrishnan b Rau	11
O Magno st Jain b David	0
C Mason st Jain b David	0
J Price not out	2
Extras (lb 11, nb 1, w 6)	18
Total (7 wkts, 32 overs)	123

C Fitzpatrick and A Fahey did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-66, 2-80, 3-83, 4-88, 5-113, 6-121, 7-121

BOWLING: Margaret 4-0-13-0, Chaudhary 4-2-7-0, Rau 5-1-19-1, David 6-0-21-0, Bhatt 7-0-25-3, Kulkarni 6-0-21-0.

INDIA

A Jain b Magno	18
A Chopra c Jones b Fitzpatrick	2
C Ahir lbw b Fitzpatrick	48
P Rau run out	10
S Harikrishnan run out	1
R Margaret run out	1
S Shaw run out	11
P Bhatt b Fitzpatrick	6
P Chaudhary not out	0
D Kulkarni b Mason	0
N David not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 1, w 5)	7
Total (9 wkts, 30 overs)	104

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-34, 3-70, 4-72, 5-75, 6-93, 7-103, 8-104, 9-104

BOWLING: Fitzpatrick 7-1-18-3, Calver 4-1-18-0, Mason 7-1-10-0, Rolton 5-0-22-0, Magno 5-0-22-1, Fahey 2-0-12-0.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

RUISLIP: Hillingdon 3-mile road race: Men: equal 1, D Dalmedo (Hillingdon) and S Edwards (Hillingdon), 16min 57sec. Women: 1, T Tuohy (London Irish), 19.09.

CRICKET

One-day international

INDORE (Sri Lanka won toss): Match abandoned, dangerous pitch

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya not out	6
†R S Kaluwitherana b Srinath	0
R S Mahanama not out	5
Extras (b 4, nb 1, w 1)	6
Total (1 wkt, 3 overs)	17

FALL OF WICKET 1-1.

H P Tillekeratne, P A de Silva, *A Ranatunga, H D P K Dharmasena, W P U J C Vaas, M Muralitharan, S C de Silva and U U Chandana did not bat.

INDIA: *S R Tendulkar, A Jadeja, S C Ganguly, N S Sidhu, M Azharuddin, R R Singh, †N R Mongia, J Srinath, R K Chauhan, H H Kanitkar, S V Bahutule.

BOWLING: Srinath 2-0-6-1, Chauhan 1-0-7-0

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

RYMAN LEAGUE: Full Members cup: Second round: Basingstoke 3 Kingstonian 2; Boreham Wood 6 Aylesbury 1; Hampton 0 Maidenhead 4; Hendon 6 St Albans 1.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Fort William 2 Forres Mechanics 2; Fraserburgh 1 Buckie Thistle 0; Lossiemouth 0 Huntly 2.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Cup: Group 4: Stockport 1 Chesterfield 1 Group 6: Rotherham 3 Tranmere 3.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: *First division:* Andover 2 AFC Newbury 5

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Bracknell 5 Manchester 4, *Newcastle 3 Nottingham 3 (after OT).*
EXPRESS CUP: Basingstoke 5 Cardiff 3.

TENNIS

MIAMI: Orange Bowl: Third round: Boys: *Under-18:* Wei-Jeng Cheng (Taipei) bt D Sherwood (GB) 6-2, 6-3. Under-16: M Poiessnig (Austria) bt S Dickson (GB) 7-6, 6-4. Girls Under-16: M Buric (Ger) bt H Farr (GB) 6-2, 6-2.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division
Saracens v Leicester (3.0)
Welsh League
First division
Blackwood v Caerphilly (noon)
Club match
Hartlepool Rovers
v West Hartlepool (2.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Club matches
Featherstone v Wakefield (11.30)
Leeds v Halifax (11.30)
Wigan v St Helens (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leicester Riders v Leopards (3.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Express Cup: Sheffield Steelers v Nottingham Panthers (6.30).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	35	75	good	varied	good	sun	8	21/12
(Mostly good skiing available)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbuhel	0	75	hard	heavy	worn	cloud	0	22/12
(Good skiing on the upper slopes)								
Obergurgl	80	120	good	powder	good	sun	-6	22/12
(Excellent skiing on fresh snow)								
Soll	5	70	icy	heavy	closed	fair	2	22/12
(Some good skiing on the upper slopes)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	60	140	good	varied	good	fine	-4	21/12
(Generally good everywhere. Most lifts open)								
Avoriaz	85	70	good	heavy	good	cloud	-3	21/12
(Excellent skiing on runs above 1,800m)								
Deux Alpes	40	120	good	powder	fair	fine	1	21/12
Best skiing on the glacier								
Flaine	35	130	good	varied	fair	fair	0	21/12
(14/28 lifts and 15/48 pistes are open)								
Megeve	10	60	fair	varied	closed	sun	-1	21/12
(Some good skiing at Cote 2000)								
Meribel	15	35	poor	none	art/worn	cloud	1	20/12
(Conditions quite poor — snow needed)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	30	200	good	heavy	good	cloud	0	21/12
(Excellent skiing on all pistes)								
SWITZERLAND								
Saas Fee	45	150	good	varied	closed	cloud	0	21/12
(Very good skiing on open pistes)								
Verbier	10	110	good	varied	closed	cloud	1	21/12
(Fantastic skiing on Mont Fort: lower slopes worn or icy)								
UNITED STATES								
C Butte	65	80	good	varied	hard	fair	-9	16/12
(11-14 lifts open and nearly all trails are open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

هكذا من الأجل

Enter the league and win £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a team and win the FA Cup league?

A £10,000 prize is up for grabs for the winner of the brand-new FA Cup league, a league within the ITF.

Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and January 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division teams.

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, *the sooner you enter the more* transfers your team will be allocated.

Any team in the ITF before 12 noon on December 13 received 20 extra transfers in addition to their present allocation. From now on, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning *of the FA Cup* league competition. **Entrants must be 18 years or over.**

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if appropriate, in the mini leagues — students' or women's.

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre *sports* bag and a *pair of tickets* to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

PREMIERSHIP CLUBS IN FA CUP DRAW

Portsmouth v Aston Villa
Arsenal v Port Vale
Leicester City v Northampton Town
Leeds United v Oxford United
Everton v Newcastle United
Liverpool v Coventry City
West Ham United v Emley
Derby County v Southampton
Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham
Crystal Palace v Scunthorpe United
Watford v Sheffield Wednesday
Chelsea v Manchester United
Wimbledon v Wrexham
Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic
Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers
Ties to be played on January 3 and 4

ITF Terms and conditions: 1. You must enter through the media channel you wish to play by. 2. Entries must comply with the specifications of the team, as listed right. 3. There is no limited to the number of entries a person or household may make. 4. No responsibility is accepted for late or lost entries due to circumstances beyond our control. Indecipherable, inaudible or incomplete entries are null and void with no refund. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry. 5. The ITF committee's decision is final regarding all aspects of ITF. 6. Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). 7. Promotional and explanatory copy relating to *The Times/The Sunday Times* ITF in association with LineOne, the Internet and Sky Sports Interactive. 8. Players values will be reassessed at the end of January and March. 9. Official updated players/managers lists will be published in *The Times*. 10. The top prize goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points in the FA Cup league. In the event of there being more than one winner, a tiebreak will operate. These are no monthly prizes. 11. The top prize for the main ITF game goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points *throughout the 1997-98 football season. There are also second and third place prizes. In the event of there being more than one winner in any of these positions, a tie-break will operate.* 12. The manager of the month prize will go to the entrant whose team scores the most points in any one month. This applies to the main ITF game, the mini leagues and the Internet league. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a winner will be chosen at random. 13. No team will be eligible to win a prize unless they have abided by the competition rules. 14. Scores will count for the English and Scottish premier division and FA Cup/Tennents Cup (involving English and Scottish premier division teams) matches for the 1997-98 season. 15. Calls for entries should take approximately eight minutes. Calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from pay phones cost approximately double. 16. The competition is not open to employees of News International, BSkyB, their relatives, agents or agents' relatives. 17. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of *your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.* 18. Full explanations on how your players will score points, how to transfer and how to check your score and position in the league are printed every week in *The Times*. 19. You may also enter a new team by LineOne, the Internet (call 0800 111 210 for details) and by Sky Sports *Interactive* (Sky Text page 118).

THE ITF FA CUP LEAGUE

£10,000 to the winner

HOW TO PLAY

Study the Cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team as follows:
You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.
Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your transfer allocation.
You may enter as many teams as you wish.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10 sterling and may only be made by post.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

0891 405 011
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotline, using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and follow the step-by-step *instructions. You must tap in (not speak) the full* set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini leagues (women's or students') *if appropriate.* If so, do so as directed on the telephone. You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters), your name, address with postcode and your daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score. (A new team will score points on future games in the ITF and mini league.) Calls last about eight minutes and cost 50p per minute (calls made from a pay phone cost approximately double).

In association with
Line

sports interactive

To enter, call 0891 405 011

(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ (Up to 16 characters)
Goalkeeper ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Manager ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________

First Name ____________
Surname ____________
Address ____________
____
Postcode ____________ Daytime Tel ____________
Cheque / PO No. ____________

This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.
☐ Women's League ☐ Student League

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league.

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX) 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐
How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐
How often do you read The Times? Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐
Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐
If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
10601	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50
11602	O Gottskalksson	Hibernian	1.50
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50
11901	*K Keller*	*Leicester City*	*3.00*
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00
12301	S Given	Newcastle United	3.00
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00
12601	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50
20303	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20503	P Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
20601	N Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
20602	R Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
20603	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00
20904	R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50
21004	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50
21404	M Ward	Everton	1.50
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00
21801	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50
21802	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	2.50
22001	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00
22101	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
22102	G Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22103	P Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22301	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00
22302	W Barton	Newcastle United	2.00
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.00
22304	S Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22803	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.00
22902	A Impey	West Ham United	1.50
22903	T Breacker	West Ham United	2.00
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00
23003	*A Kimble*	*Wimbledon*	*2.00*

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
30601	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50
31102	J Laursen	Derby County	1.50
31201	S Pressley	Dundee United	2.00
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00
31404	C Tiler	Everton	1.50
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50
31802	G Halle	Leeds United	2.00
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00
31804	L Radebe	Leeds United	2.00
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00
30501	H Berg	Manchester United	3.50
32101	D May	Manchester United	3.50
32102	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50
32301	P Albert	Newcastle United	2.50
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00
32303	S Howey	Newcastle United	2.00
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle United	3.00
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32802	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32803	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50
32902	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham United	2.00
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50
32904	I Pearce	West Ham United	2.00
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.00
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40601	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50
40602	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40604	M Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40605	J Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50
40904	*P Telfer*	*Coventry City*	*1.50*
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50
41104	C Daily	Derby County	1.50
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00
41201	R Winters	Dundee United	3.50
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	3.50
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00
41405	*J Oster*	*Everton*	*2.50*
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds United	3.50
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00
41802	A Haaland	Leeds United	2.00
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds United	2.50
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds United	2.50
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.00
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	4.00
42101	D Beckham	Manchester United	8.00
42102	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00
42103	R Keane	Manchester United	5.00
42104	N Butt	Manchester United	4.00
42105	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00
42301	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.00
42302	*K Gillespie*	*Newcastle United*	*3.50*
42303	D Batty	Newcastle United	2.50
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle United	3.00
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	6.50
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00
42403	J Thern	Rangers	3.00
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
42701	*J Magilton*	*Sheffield Wednesday*	2.00
42502	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00
42505	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	2.00
42706	M Oakley	Southampton	1.50
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42803	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42804	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham United	2.50
42902	S Lomas	West Ham United	2.50
42903	J Moncur	West Ham United	2.00
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	*6.00*
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.00
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	5.50
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn Rovers	*4.00*
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	6.00
50602	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	3.50
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton Wanderers	3.00
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.00
51004	M Padovano	Crystal Palace	2.50
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00
51103	F Baiano	Derby County	4.50
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee United	4.00
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50
51502	*J Hamilton*	*Hearts*	*3.00*
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds United	3.00
51803	R Wallace	Leeds United	3.50
51804	H Kewell	Leeds United	2.00
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester United	7.50
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester United	7.00
52103	P Scholes	Manchester United	6.00
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.00
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.00
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle United	2.00
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8.50
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50
52403	*G Durie*	*Rangers*	3.00
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50
52601	G O'Boyle	*St Johnstone*	1.50
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham Hotspur	7.50
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52803	J Domingues	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
52901	J Hartson	West Ham United	4.50
52902	P Kitson	West Ham United	3.00
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	1.50
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
60102	A Miller	Aberdeen	1.50
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
60601	*C Todd*	*Bolton Wanderers*	1.50
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00
60801	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75
61101	J Smith	Derby County	2.50
61201	T McLean	Dundee United	2.00
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00
61401	*H Kendall*	Everton	2.00
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	3.50
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	3.00
61901	*M O'Neill*	Leicester City	2.50
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	3.00
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester United	5.00
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle United	4.00
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00
62502	R Atkinson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50
62601	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50
62802	C Gross	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00

Pre-trial delay in death row phenomenon

Fisher v Minister of Public Safety and Immigration and Others

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hutton and Mr Justice Gault

[Judgment December 16]

As a general rule it was not appropriate for the purposes of considering whether execution had been rendered inhuman by reason of delay in carrying out the sentence to bring into account pre-trial delay.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held, Lord Steyn dissenting, in dismissing an appeal by Trevor Nathaniel Pennerman Fisher from the dismissal by the Court of Appeal of *The Bahamas* of an appeal from the dismissal by Mr Justice Osadabay of the appellants' motion for constitutional relief against the Minister of Public Safety and Immigration, the Superintendent of Prisons and the Attorney-General.

Mr Owen Davies and Ms Nerida Harford Bell for the appellant: Sir Godfray Le Quesne, QC, Mr Howard Stevens, Mr Bernard Turner (Assistant Director of Legal Affairs in the Office of the Attorney-General of the Bahamas) and Ms Cheryl Bethell (Senior Crown Council in the Office of the Attorney-General) for the respondents.

LORD GOFF, delivering the judgment of the majority, said that the principle established in *Pratt v Attorney-General for Jamaica* ([1994] 2 AC 1) was founded on the constitutional principle, which in The Bahamas was enshrined in article 17(1) of the Constitution, that no person should be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

As was pointed out in *Henfield v Attorney-General of The Bahamas* ([1997] AC 413, 420) the essential question in *Pratt* was whether the execution of a man following long delay after his sentence to death could amount to inhuman punishment contrary to article 17(1). It followed that, as was clear from the authorities, the period of delay which fell to be taken into account *when considering* whether the constitutional right under article 17(1) had been infringed in that way was the period beginning with sentence of death.

It was the primary submission of the respondents, that *it* was not appropriate to bring into account pre-trial delay for the purposes of considering whether execution had been rendered inhuman on the principle in *Pratt*. As a general principle, their Lordships accepted that submission.

It was clear from the authorities, not only that the question of the impact of pre-trial delay was not *considered in the previous cases*, but that the principle was so stated as to relate exclusively to the period following sentence of death during which time the convicted man was facing the agony of sentence of execution.

It followed that simply to extend the relevant period to take into account time awaiting trial, in addition to the period awaiting execution, would not merely be an extension of the *Pratt* principle, but would involve the application of that principle to circumstances in which it was, as formulated, not applicable.

That conclusion was reinforced by other considerations:

First, since the state of mind of the person in question during that earlier period was not the agony of mind of a man facing execution, but "the anxiety and concern of the accused" it by no means followed that the two periods of delay should be treated in the same way.

Next, the period of five years, or for present purposes in The Bahamas three and a half years, which had been chosen as a norm, had been so chosen with reference to the appellate processes which might be invoked after conviction. It did not reflect in any way the state of affairs before trial.

Third, the degree of anxiety and concern felt by an accused man before his trial was likely to be affected by his prospects, as seen by him, of an acquittal by the jury.

For all those reasons, there was no basis for simply extending the *Pratt* principle to take into account delay which had occurred before trial.

That would involve consideration of two different types of period: part of the period awaiting trial and the whole period from sentence to the date fixed for execution; and, quite apart from the fundamental objection that the state of mind of the man in question was different during the two periods, it was difficult see on what basis a norm could be established which would accommodate both *those periods*.

In truth, the principle in *Pratt* was established in response to the fact that, in some Caribbean countries, men sentenced to death were being held on death row for wholly unacceptable periods of time, and was specifically fashioned to meet that problem. It did not admit to being extended, in the manner contended for on behalf of the appellant, to address the wholly different problem of pre-trial delay.

There was, however, another possible approach to the problem. That would involve not a simple adding together of the two different periods, but taking into account pre-trial delay on the principle established in *Guerra v Baptiste* ([1996] 1 AC 397).

In that case, it was recognised that the five year period applicable in Trinidad and Tobago was not to be regarded as "a fixed period applicable in all cases, but rather as a norm which may be departed from if the circumstances of the case so require": see *Henfield* (at p421).

Their Lordships were unwilling, in a case concerned with constitutional rights, to impose any hard and fast limit on the matters to be taken into account when considering whether a right of that kind, especially one so fundamental as that in article 17(1) of the Bahamian Constitution, had been infringed.

They were unwilling therefore to exclude the possibility that pre-trial delay, if sufficiently serious in character, might be capable of being taken into account for that purpose.

However, only in exceptional circumstances was such a case likely to occur; and the facts of the present case did not enable the appellant to invoke the principle in *Guerra*.

LORD STEYN, dissenting, said that a dissenting judgment anchored in the circumstances of today sometimes appealed to the judges of tomorrow. In that way a dissenting judgment sometimes contributed to the continuing development of the law.

Article 17(1) required the court to take into account the whole picture in so far as it had an impact on illegitimate and unnecessary suffering inflicted on the individual.

If due to the failure of the state there was inflicted on the individual the agony of a prolonged delay of his trial on a charge of murder that had logically to be relevant as a contributory and aggravating factor which, depending on the circumstances, might tilt the balance in a given case.

Our sense of humanity and decency ought not to permit us to ignore the circumstance, if proved, that he had for several years before sentence been held in appalling conditions with a noose constantly dangling before his mind's eye; it ought not to permit us to ignore a deliberate decision by the state to delay bringing on his trial for several years; and it ought not to permit us to ignore an inexcusable failure to bring him to trial for many years.

Moreover, on simple common sense grounds one had to recognise the relevance of pre-sentence circumstances, for example, it had to be an aggravating circumstance if the state arranged to delay a murder charge in order to have an accused tried and flogged on a lesser charge before proceeding with the murder charge.

Similarly, our common sense told us that the interaction of pre-sentence delay and prison conditions, with the brooding horror of an awareness of executions going on, might add greatly to sapping the will and increasing the torment of the condemned man. Only by shutting one's eyes to reality could such circumstances be ruled out of consideration on a priori grounds.

The proposition in the judgment of the majority that, although the possibility of taking into account serious pre-trial delay was not excluded, *it was anticipated that it* would only occur in exceptional circumstances, could not be reconciled with article 17(1).

It was at odds with constitutional language of width and generality. It failed to give effect to the full measure of the fundamental rights protected by article 17(1).

It meant that, unless a court judged that the threshold of exceptionality was passed, even substantial additional suffering caused by prolonged and unjustifiable pre-trial delay caused by the state could not be taken into account in the ultimate decision.

Such an exclusionary restriction *on what might be considered* was contrary to the language, purpose and spirit of article 17(1).

Nobody suggested that a time table had to be provided for the conduct of murder trials in The Bahamas. On the other hand in The Bahamas such trials were almost invariably concluded in a period of 18 months.

Unjustifiable delay beyond 18 months of murder trials in The Bahamas might well be an aggravating circumstance which might entitle the court to depart from the norm.

Solicitors: Cameron McKenna; Charles Russell.

Dissenting arbitrator cannot give reasons

Cargill International SA and Another v Sociedad Iberica de Molturacion SA and Others

Before Lord Justice Phillips, Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment December 16]

A dissenting arbitrator conducting an arbitration pursuant to GAFTA 125 Rules was not entitled to insist on his dissenting reasons being part of the decision.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by Sociedad *Iberica de Molturacion* SA (SIMSA) against the decision of Mr Justice Colman in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division (*The Times* November 12, 1997) on originating summonses issued against each other by Cargill International SA Antigua (Geneva branch) and Cargill Incorporated on the one hand and SIMSA, the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA), Derek R. Marshall, Anthony G. Scott and Ronald J. Short on the other.

Rule 3 of the GAFTA Rules provides: "(8) If an arbitrator dies, or refuses to act, or becomes incapable of acting, or fails to proceed with the arbitration . . . the party appointing such arbitrator shall forthwith appoint a substitute. . ."

Rule 7 provides: "(1) All awards of arbitration shall be in writing on an official form issued by the association and shall be signed by the sole arbitrator or by all members of the tribunal. . .

"(2) The award shall state the arbitrators' reasons therefor and whether any sum awarded carries interest thereon."

Mr Murray Pickering, QC, for SIMSA; Mr Van V. Veeder, QC and Mr Mark Hoyle for Cargill.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said that under a contract made on or about December 1, 1993 Cargill sold to SIMSA 20,000 metric tons of soya bean meal pellets. The contract incorporated GAFTA 100 terms which by clause 33 provided for disputes to be settled by arbitration in accordance with GAFTA Rules set out in GAFTA Form 125.

A dispute arose and was referred to arbitration. SIMSA appointed Mr Bridge as its arbitrator; Cargill appointed Mr Scott and GAFTA appointed Mr Marshall.

The arbitration went on for about three and a half years. On June 26, 1996 GAFTA informed the parties that the tribunal would not be accepting any more documents as the award was complete. The award had by then been signed by Mr Scott and Mr Marshall and simply awaited the signature of Mr Bridge.

On July 15, GAFTA informed the parties that Mr Bridge would not sign and asked the parties if they would accept the award of two arbitrators. Cargill was prepared to accept but SIMSA would not. Eventually GAFTA took the view encouraged by Cargill that Mr Bridge was refusing to act and appointed a substitute, Mr Short, pursuant to rule 3(8).

The argument before the judge and in the Court of Appeal had proceeded on the basis that Mr Bridge had refused to sign because he was not being allowed to express his dissenting reasons.

However, his Lordship wished to stress that if what Mr Bridge was seeking to do was to have his reasons recorded for reaching the same conclusion, that was an entirely different matter from seeking to have inserted a dissenting view with dissenting reasons.

If he was seeking to insist on different findings being recorded as reasons for the award of the majority, which would support a conclusion different from the award, that again would be entirely different and in this instance obviously illegitimate.

The only question to be considered was therefore whether an arbitrator conducting an arbitration pursuant to GAFTA 125 Rules was entitled to insist on dissenting reasons being part of the reasons under rule 7(2).

It seemed to his Lordship clear that the proper construction to place on rule 7(2) of the GAFTA Rules was that the reasons which had to be stated were only those in *favour of the award*.

The only argument for saying that dissenting reasons were reasons "for" the award would have to be on the lines that where there were three arbitrators, the "reason" why there was an award in favour of A, was because two arbitrators thought X and one arbitrator thought Y, and the majority won.

However, it was a misuse of the word "reason" to contemplate anything other than findings relating to the actual dispute between the parties; it was contrary to the decision of Mr Justice Hobhouse in *Planet Shipping Co SA v Société Anonyme Marocanie de L'Industrie de Raffinage* (unreported, October 12, 1994) to contemplate that awards should include dissenting reasons and if the mere fact that an arbitrator did dissent was something a dissenter wished to make clear, he could do that without expressing reasons.

As to whether the courtesy to allow a dissenting opinion to be attached should normally be extended to an arbitrator who dissented might depend on the type and circumstances of the arbitration.

It was for the majority to decide whether to extend the courtesy and unless the rules or arbitration agreement provided expressly, a dissenting arbitrator had no right to insist on his dissenting reasons forming part of the reasons for an award.

Where rules, as in the case of GAFTA 125, required the signature of all three arbitrators for the award to be valid, a dissenting arbitrator had to sign in accordance with his duty to act as arbitrator.

Thus in the present case, on the assumption made about Mr Bridge, since SIMSA would not appoint a substitute for Mr Bridge, GAFTA had no choice but to appoint one. The appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Chadwick delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Phillips agreed.

Solicitors: Turner & Co; Mr Brian Perrott, Cobham.

Company is ineligible for legal aid

Regina v Chester and North Wales Legal Aid Area Office (No 12), Ex parte Floods of Queensferry Ltd

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Lord Justice Millett and Sir Roger Parker

[Judgment December 18]

A company was ineligible for legal aid unless it was concerned in a representative, fiduciary or official capacity to seek legal advice or representation within section 2(10) *of the Legal Aid Act 1988*.

The legislative intention was to make legal aid available to bodies corporate only in limited circumstances, where the applicant sought legal aid to act on behalf of another. That other had to be an individual, not a company ineligible for legal aid.

Where, therefore, a company had assigned its cause of action for breach of contract to its managing director and principal shareholder in order to transfer its cause of action to him, but a prohibition on assignment in the sub-contract rendered the transfer ineffective, in prosecuting the action the company was not acting in a fiduciary capacity for its managing director and accordingly was not eligible for legal aid.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal against the *refusal by Mr Justice Popplewell* (*The Times* November 7, 1997) of an application for judicial review of the decision of the Legal Aid Board not to grant legal aid to Floods of Queensferry Ltd to prosecute an action on the ground that it was not a "person" within section 2(10) of the 1988 Act.

Mr Justin Fenwick, QC and Mr Ben Elkington, who did not appear below, for the company; Mr Jonathan Harvie, QC and Mr Tom Weisselberg, who did not appear below, for the Legal Aid Board; Mr Colin Reese, QC and Miss Chantal Aimée Doerries for the interested party, the defendants to the action.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the word "fiduciary" in section 2(10) did not bear a technical meaning. Like the words "representative" and "official" it qualified the capacity in which the applicant *applied for legal aid*.

The correct test, to be applied at the time of the application, was whether the company was concerned to obtain legal aid to bring the action as a nominal plaintiff and on behalf of Mr Flood, its managing director.

The company was neither a fiduciary nor a nominal plaintiff. It had no funds with which to prosecute the action, having assigned all its assets and liabilities to Mr Flood, and had accordingly entered into a purely commercial arrangement with Mr Flood under which he could, but was not bound to, finance the action in return for a share in the proceeds.

Such an arrangement gave rise to no fiduciary relationship. It was an arms' length transaction between parties on an equal footing. Nor did it result in the company *becoming a nominal plaintiff*. Since the assignment was ineffective to vest the judgment debt in Mr Flood, the company was the real plaintiff acting on its own behalf.

Section 2(10) was not concerned with the identity of the person who would benefit if the action was successful, but with the capacity in which the applicant was concerned to obtain legal advice and representation.

The fact that a party had disposed of the proceeds of an action did not affect the capacity in which he brought the action. Nor did the fact that there had been an ineffective attempt to assign the cause of action itself.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE, agreeing, said that the words "representative, fiduciary or official capacity" in section 2(10) were to be construed as a whole.

It was a composite expression which did not gain from being broken down into its constituent parts. It was not inappropriate to describe it as a nominee capacity although that did not exhaust its full meaning.

Sir Roger Parker agreed.

Solicitors: Winward Fearon; Mr Colin Stutt, Legal Aid Board; Morrison Skirrow.

Identification evidence danger

Regina v Cardinal Newman's School, Birmingham and Another, Ex parte S

Before Mr Justice Moses

[Judgment December 11]

When carrying out an investigation into a school incident the head teacher, the governors of the school and the appeals committee should have in mind the dangers inherent in the evidence of identification.

Mr Justice Moses so held in the Queen's Bench Division in a reserved judgment allowing an application for judicial review by S, a schoolgirl, of the decision of Birmingham City Council, the second respondent, dated December 16, 1996, dismissing her appeal against permanent exclusion from Cardinal Newman's School in Birmingham.

Mrs Jane Oldham for Birmingham City Council; Mr Ian Wise for S.

MR JUSTICE MOSES said the applicant was accused of attacking a pupil during the mid-day break on May 22, 1996. The incident was witnessed by one adult, Mrs Taylor, a classroom assistant who did not know the applicant by name but identified her after being shown photographs of pupils at the school.

In fact, unknown to the head teacher, two other members of staff had named the applicant when accompanying Mrs Taylor to carry out the identification process. Following an investigation, the decision was made permanently to exclude the applicant from school.

The overriding principle was that a pupil must have a fair opportunity to exculpate herself: see *R v Board of Visitors of Hull Prison, Ex parte St Germain and Others* ([1979] 1 WLR 1401, 1409).

Three principles were of particular importance:

1 Those conducting an inquiry must decide what critical issues of fact they should resolve and what inquiries could reasonably be made to resolve those issues.

2 They must give careful and even handed consideration to all the available evidence in relation to those issues.

3 Those conducting an inquiry did not need, on every occasion, to carry out searching inquiries involving the calling of bodies of oral evidence: see *R v Camden London Borough Council and the Governors of Hampstead School, Ex parte H* ([1996] ELR 360).

The essential issue in this case was the correctness of the identification of Mrs Taylor.

It was important that those conducting the inquiry should remind themselves of the dangers of identification evidence and the need for safeguards to avoid such dangers. It was therefore incumbent upon them to examine carefully the circumstances in which the identification was made and consider the extent to which those safeguards normally necessary to avoid the dangers of visual identification were in place.

Such safeguards normally required an account of the initial description given by the witness of the culprit before the identification took place, an account of the process of identification and the steps taken to avoid any identification being tainted by suggestion.

The appeal committee and the governors had failed to made sufficient inquiry into the process of identifying the applicant and that led to a procedure which did not give the applicant a fair hearing to exculpate herself.

The head teacher had been fair in his approach as he had been aware of the dangers of identification evidence. However he had not been informed of the circumstances in which Mrs Taylor made her identification of the applicant.

In the circumstances the decision permanently to exclude the applicant should be set aside notwithstanding that the head teacher had proceeded fairly as it was the only way in which the applicant could be in no worse a position than she would have been in had she been able to exculpate herself before the governors and appeals committee.

Solicitors: Mr Stewart Dobson, Birmingham; Wright & Co, Birmingham.

Providing board and housing

Regina v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture and Others

The phrase "residential accommodation" in Part III of the National Assistance Act 1948 meant *no* more than where a person lived. A local authority was not obliged to provide board or other services as a package with the accommodation provided, except where those were considered necessary when it had to provide *them in connection with the* accommodation.

Mr Justice Moses so held in the Queen's Bench Division in a reserved judgment on December 12 allowing an application for judicial review by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture and others against the decision of Newham London Borough Council to offer single asylum seekers accommodation in a hotel outside the borough.

HIS LORDSHIP said that it was plain from section 21(5) of the National Assistance Act 1948 that a local authority could form the opinion that the board and other services to which subsection 5 referred were unnecessary yet the obligation to provide residential accommodation remained.

It followed that residential accommodation meant no more than the accommodation where a *person lived. Where a local authority* formed the view that board and other services were necessary *it* was not a requirement that such services be provided in the accommodation.

Such other services had to be provided in connection with, not in, the accommodation: see section 21(7)(b) of the Act.

Clause cannot be used to enforce itself

Alfred C. Toepfer International GmbH v Société Cargill France

Before Lord Justice Staughton, *Lord Justice Phillips* and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment November 25]

A *Scott v Avery* clause ((1856) 5 HLC 811) (where an arbitration award was a condition precedent to the raising of the action) could not as a matter of construction apply to injunctive proceedings brought for the purpose of enforcing the clause itself.

The Court of Appeal so held in an appeal brought by the defendant, Société Cargill France, against the finding by Mr Justice Colman that he was entitled to entertain a claim for declaratory relief and injunctions brought by the plaintiff, Alfred C. Toepfer International GmbH.

Clause 31 of GAFTA Form 100 provides: ". . . the court of England or arbitrators appointed in England . . . shall . . . have exclusive jurisdiction over all disputes which may arise under this contract."

Clause 32(b) provides: "Neither party . . . shall bring any action or other legal proceedings against the other of them in respect of any such dispute until such dispute shall first have been heard and determined by the arbitrator(s). . ."

Mr Michael Tselentis and Mr David Bailey for Cargill; Mr Stephen Morris for Toepfer.

LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS, delivering the judgment of the court, said that Cargill and Toepfer entered into three contracts which required disputes to be resolved by Grain and Food Trade Association arbitration, to the exclusion of any other tribunal. That clause should have ensured that the dispute was resolved cheaply and expeditiously by an expert tribunal. The parties had, however, become embroiled in a procedural dispute which raised complex issues as to the interpretation of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters, signed at Brussels in 1968.

Accordingly those matters would be referred to the European Court of Justice, pursuant to Schedule 2 to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982.

Not all the issues involved the Brussels Convention and their Lordships thought it helpful to resolve those which did not turn on the interpretation of the *Convention*.

When a dispute arose about the condition of cargo, Cargill applied to the Tribunal de Commerce de St Nazaire under an urgent interlocutory procedure known as *en référé* for the appointment of a court expert to ascertain the relevant facts.

The French court made the order sought the following day. The French expert asked Toepfer to produce certificates of analysis at the loadport.

Toepfer declined to do so on the ground that under the contractual provisions those were irrelevant. Cargill made a further application *to the French* court *for* the production of the certificates.

Cargill rejected the major part of the cargo and called for arbitration. Cargill then nominated their arbitrator.

Five days later the French court heard and dismissed the objections made by Toepfer to the two orders made *en référé*. At that stage Cargill had given no indication that they did not intend that the substantive dispute should be resolved by arbitration. Toepfer then appointed their arbitrator. Toepfer's appeal in France against the two orders made *en référé* was dismissed.

Cargill then issued proceedings in the French court making a substantive claim for damages against Toepfer. At the same time, however, they gave notice renewing the arbitration; something which had to be done every 12 months under GAFTA Rules.

Toepfer then referred to GAFTA arbitration a claim for damages on the ground that Cargill had acted in breach of contract in commencing court proceedings in disregard of the arbitration clause.

Cargill purported to renew their arbitration and Toepfer took the point that they were out of time. Toepfer submitted an objection of the jurisdiction of the French court in respect of the substantive proceedings, invoking the exlcusive GAFTA jurisdiction clause and sought an order that the French court declare itself incompetent and refer the proceedings to arbitration.

Toepfer also applied to the High Court for injunctions and declaratory relief to prevent Cargill from pursuing the matter in France.

Before Mr Justice Colman, Cargill argued that clause 32(b) precluded Toepfer from bringing the present proceedings without first obtaining an arbitration award.

That was a submission not lacking in effrontery, having regard to their own conduct in bringing proceedings in France. Mr Justice Colman gave it very short shrift.

In their Lordships' judgment, as a matter of construction, a *Scott v Avery* clause could not apply to injunctive proceedings brought for the purpose of enforcing the clause itself. Thus clause 32 did not preclude the judge from entertaining the claim for relief that was before him.

The judge's finding in relation to clause 31 dovetailed neatly with his view of the effect of the *Scott v Avery* provision in clause 32. He held that the effect of those provisions was to share between the English court and the arbitrators exclusive jurisdiction over all disputes.

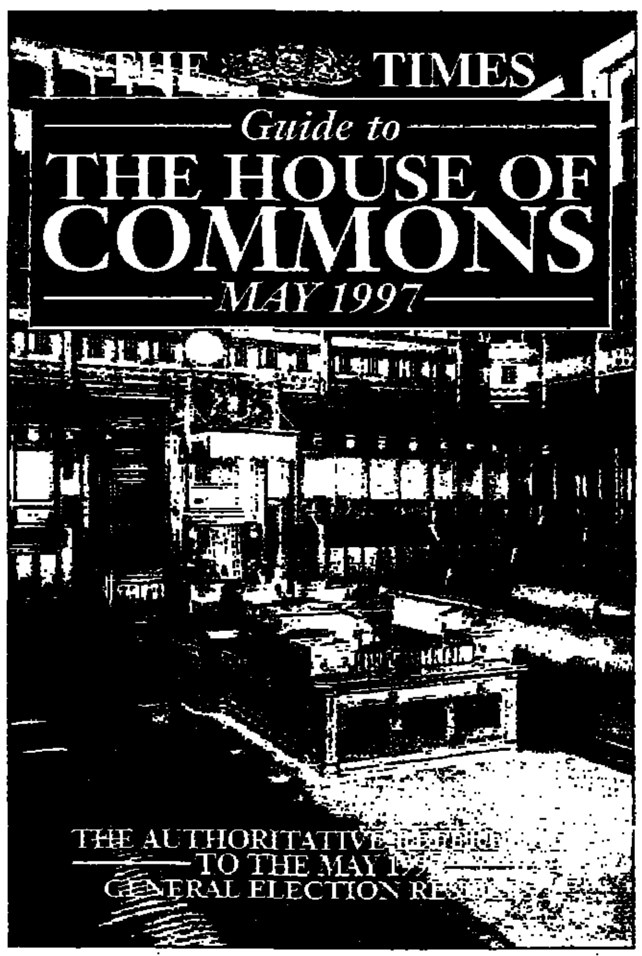
Those disputes which went to substance fell *within* the exclusive jurisdiction of the GAFTA arbitrators whereas disputes in relation to ancillary matters fell within the exclusive jurisdiction of the English court.

Mr Tselentis challenged that conclusion. He submitted that clause 31 provided alternative jurisdictional regimes, applicable to all disputes covered by that clause. Their Lordships agreed.

Their Lordships did not consider that clause 31 had to be construed as tailored to fit with clause 32. If the draftsman had wished to apportion jurisdiction between the court and the arbitrators he would *not have done* so in that way.

Clause 31 was designed to apply where the contract provided for arbitration and also where it did not. Thus the present proceedings were not subject to an agreed exclusive English jurisdiction.

Solicitors: Mr Brian Perrott, Cobham; Middleton Potts.



From Poll position to Chequers flag

The ultimate reference guide to the 1997 General Election results

THE TIMES
Guide to
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
MAY 1997
THE AUTHORITATIVE GUIDE TO THE MAY 1997 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

£35 (inc.P&P)

- A detailed constituency-by-constituency breakdown of results
- A full statistical analysis of the 1997 General Election
- Authoritative reports and analyses of the election campaign
- Biography and photograph of every Member of Parliament, plus biographies of the unsuccessful candidates of the major parties
- Fold-out map of the UK illustrating the election results

TO ORDER
☎
our 24-hour telephone ordering service on
0181 307 4052
or send this coupon to
Mail Order, Dept. 94W,
HarperCollins*Publishers*,
Westerhill Road,
Bishopbriggs,
Glasgow,
G64 2QT.

Please send me ________ copy/ies of The Times Guide to the House of Commons @ £35.00 (inc. P&P).
I enclose a cheque for £ ________ made payable to HarperCollins*Publishers* or please debit my Access/Visa (delete where necessary)
Card No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date: ____ / ____
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other title ________
Surname ________ Initials ________
Address ________
________ Postcode ________
Signature ________ Please allow 21 days delivery

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الإصل

g arbitrator
ve reasons

ience danger

itself

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

■ **ART**: Ron Cook, Nigel Havers and Malcolm Storry in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white painting.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) *Tue-Sat, 8pm*, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

◩ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie-Alanah Brighten and Alasdair Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington
Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Today, tomorrow, Dec 29 and 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 31, 2.30. Closed Jan 1. Jan 2 and 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; *mat Sat 2.30pm*

◩ **BUGSY MALONE**: The cast of the National Youth Music Theatre fire their splurge-guns in the spoof gangster musical derived from Alan Parker's movie. Jeremy Taylor directs.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Today, tomorrow, Dec 30 and 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Closed Dec 29. Jan 1 and 2, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Jan 17

◩ **CHICAGO** Revised version of the celebrated Kander & Ebb musical directed by Walter Bobbie. A multi-Tony winner on Broadway last year. Starring Ruthie Henshall, Ute Lemper, Henry Goodman and Nigel Planer.
Adelphi, Strand, London WC2 (0171-344 0055). Today and tomorrow, 2.30pm and 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

☐ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC** The sell-out RSC production from Stratford, with Antony Sher as Rostand's tragic romantic hero. Gregory Doran directs.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5054). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2pm.

☐ **FAME**: TV and film spin-off about young hopefuls from the New York School of the Performing Arts. Touring company in London for ten weeks.
Victoria Palace, Victoria St, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Today, 5.30pm and 8.30pm; tomorrow, 3pm and 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thur, 7.30pm; Fri, 5.30pm and 8pm; Sat, 3pm and 7.30pm.

◩ **THE FRONT PAGE** Alun Armstrong and Griff Rhys Jones play hard-nosed editor and ace reporter, leading a lovely cast in Sam Mendes's production of the classic Ben Hecht/Charles MacArthur comedy.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

◩ **A GRAND NIGHT OUT** Wallace and Gromit take to the stage for Christmas, pursued to London by the Penguin, escaped from jail and bent on revenge. Nick Park's characters put through their paces by the Thunderbirds FAB team
Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, WC2 (0171-494 5090). Today, tomorrow and Dec 29, 3pm and 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Mats almost daily

■ **THE INVENTION OF LOVE** Tom Stoppard's new play with John Wood as the elderly A. E. Housman, careful to keep his love life private. Paul Rhys plays the young Housman and Michael Bryant is Charon ferrying the dead across the Styx. Richard Eyre directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Ⓢ. Tonight, 7.30pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm. In rep

☐ **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION**: Edward Fox and Clare Higgins play Harold Macmillan and Lady Dorothy in Hugh Whitemore's play about the effects of the Profumo scandal.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

◩ **THE MAGISTRATE** Ian Richardson plays the much harassed hero in a fitfully funny revival of Pinero's farce. Cast includes Graham Crowden, Frank Middlemass, John Padden.
Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

Antony Sher is Rostand's hero, Cyrano de Bergerac

☐ **THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR** Ian Judge's jolly production with Leslie Phillips being crammed into the laundry basket by Joanna McCallum and Susannah York. Edward Petherbridge plays Ford.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.15pm, tomorrow 2pm and 7.15pm. In repertoire Ⓢ

☐ **SCISSOR HAPPY** Comedy whodunnit where the audience can play detective. Adapted by Neil Mullarkey, Lee Simpson and Robert Harley from the US long-runner Shear Madness.
Duchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm; mat Wed, 2.30pm

◩ **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW** Slava Polunin and his company return with their display of ingenious clowning building to an amazing tempestuous climax.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Today and tomorrow, 7.45pm. Dec 29-30, 4pm and 7.45pm. Closed Dec 31 and Jan 1. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until January 3 Ⓢ

☐ **THE SLOW DRAG** Jazz musical by Carson Kreitzer, loosely based on the story of Billy Tipton, a woman who passed as a man to find work as a jazz musician. Liza Sadovy joins Kim Criswell and Christopher Colquhoun from Lisa Forrell's Freedom Cafe production earlier this year.
Whitehall Theatre, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Today and tomorrow, 7pm and 9.30pm. Dec 29 and 30, 9pm. Dec 31, 7pm. Closed Jan 1. Then Mon-Thur, 9pm. Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm

☐ **TREASURE ISLAND** Tom Georgeson straps himself into the wooden leg for Neil Bartlett's adaptation of Stevenson's classic tale of pirates, doubloons, cutlasses and a longing for toasted cheese.
Lyric, King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm (except Dec 31, 6pm), mats Sat, 2.30pm and tonight and Dec 31, 2.30pm, mats Dec 9, 11, 16, Jan 8, 14, 1.30pm. Until January 17 Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Buddy** Strand (0171-930 8800). ◩ **Jesus Christ Superstar** Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ☐ **Martin Guerre** Prince Edward (0171-447 5400) ◩ **Les Misérables** Palace (0171-434 0909) ☐ **Miss Saigon** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ◩ **The Mousetrap** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ◩ ***Oliver!*** *Palladium* (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera** Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ☐ **Smokey Joe's Cafe** Prince of Wales (0171-839 5987)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

KITCHEN (15) Coming to terms with grief in Hong Kong. Chic, impressionistic drama from director Yim Ho, based on a popular Japanese novel.
Everyman Ⓢ (0171-435 1525) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS (U) Welcome revival of Orson Welles's marvellous portrait of late 19th century America in transition. Made in 1942; with Tim Holt, Joseph Cotten and Agnes Moorehead
NFT (0171-928 3232) Ⓢ

◆ ***SPICEWORLD*** *(PG)* *Five crazy* days with the Spice Girls. Good as merchandise, but lousy as a movie. With Richard E. Grant and celebrity cameos galore. Director, Bob Spiers
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Empire** Ⓢ (0990 888990) Ⓢ **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) ***Fulham Road*** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015)

CURRENT

◆ **ALIEN RESURRECTION** (18): Sigourney Weaver's Ripley returns to combat more aliens in a jaunty sequel that ultimately gets out of hand. With Winona Ryder. Director, Jean-Pierre Jeunet.
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015)

◆ **THE BORROWERS** (U). Minuscule scavengers fight for their home. Exhilarating family film, much adapted from the children's classic. With John Goodman and Jim Broadbent
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) ***Odeons: Kensington*** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ *(0990 888990)* ***Virgins: Fulham Road*** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015)

CLOSE-UP: Impoverished man poses as an Iranian film director. Fascinating and humane drama, based on truth, from Abbas Kiarostami.
ICA Ⓢ (0171-930 3647) **Rio** (0171-254 6677)

◆ **THE FULL MONTY** (15) Unemployed steelworkers strip for cash. Bouncy British comedy, with Robert Carlyle, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Addy. Director, Peter Cattaneo.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** *(0171-498 3323)* **Empire** Ⓢ (0990 888990) Ⓢ **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE** (U) Tarzanesque hero finds romance in America. Passable romp based on the TV cartoon series, with Brendan Fraser and Leslie Mann. Director, Sam Weisman
Greenwich (0181-235 3005) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **HERCULES** (U). Greek mythology gets Disneyfied. Lively family cartoon from *Aladdin* directors John Musker and Ron Clements
Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) ***Kensington*** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ ***HOME ALONE 3 (PG)*** *Another* Christmas, another kid left alone to fight intruders. Unappealing sequel with a different tyke (Alex D. Linz) and a tougher edge. Director, Raja Gosnell
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

KEEP THE ASPIDISTRA FLYING (12): The struggles of Richard E. Grant's aspiring poet. Small pleasures only in a version of Orwell's 1930s novel. With Helena Bonham Carter. Director, Robert Bierman
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721)

KISS ME, GUIDO *(15) Crowd-*pleasing comedy about gays and straights in New York. With Nick Scotti, Anthony Barrile. Director, Tony Vitale
Metro (0171-437 0757) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST **SUMMER** (18): Reckless teenagers get their comeuppance. Variable horror film from the writer of *Scream*. With Jennifer Love Hewitt, Freddie Prinze Jr. Director, Jim Gillespie.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) ***Swiss Cottage*** *(0181-315 4220)* ***Plaza*** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0181-970 6015)

◆ **L.A. CONFIDENTIAL** (18): *Smashing drama about corruption in LA* in the early 1950s, with Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Kim Basinger, Guy Pearce and Danny DeVito. Director, Curtis Hanson
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Panton Street** (0171-930 0631) **Clapham Picture House** *(0171-498 3323)* **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **TOMORROW NEVER DIES** (12): Pierce Brosnan's James Bond combats an evil media mogul (Jonathan Pryce). Set piece thrills, but little sparkle. With Michelle Yeoh and Teri Hatcher. Director, Roger Spottiswoode
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Barbican** Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden Town** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) ***UCI Whiteleys*** Ⓢ *(0990 888990)* **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

Here for the Meyerbeer

Les Patineurs/ Beatrix Potter
Festival Hall

The Royal Ballet's tour of London theatres brought the company to Festival Hall on Tuesday night for its Christmas season. The Royal is presenting the works of Frederick Ashton, although adults will have to wait for *Cinderella* on January 6 to get the full measure of his glorious classical writing. For the time being it is children who are being catered for.

Les Patineurs, which Ashton made in 1937, is, however, a delightful example of his skill as a classical choreographer, its light easy humour matched by the flair of fine academic writing. Skating is the motif but not the narrative, and Ashton uses the forward thrust of the skater as the inspiration for a work (set to dances by Meyerbeer) that celebrates the joy of movement, be it on ice or on stage.

Miyako Yoshida and Deborah Bull, as the blue skaters, led Tuesday night's cast. They make a good team: Yoshida is sweet and gamine-like, Bull more knowingly flirtatious. Yoshida's fouettés were spot-on, no less so Bull's rapid-fire turns in a circle.

Muriel Valtat and Stuart Cassidy as the white couple are the tender lovers of the piece. Skating for them is not a display of technical prowess but a few treasured moments of physical closeness. Although their partnership requires more polish, Valtat has a charming period quality which could shine if she was less worried about steps.

For technical prowess you need look no further than Tetsuya Kumakawa as the male skater in blue. Here are the flash turns and bold jumps of classical virtuosity, packaged in a sparkling demonstration of self-confidence. Kumakawa wasn't quite up to scratch, the exactness of his execution slipping just a little. But he did perk up in time for his final solo, bringing the curtain down with a spirited series of turns.

Tales of Beatrix Potter, which came after an absurdly long interval, offered the sight of Potter's cute and cuddly creatures come to life on stage. Fifteen minutes into the ballet, however, and my seven-year-old date felt the call of nature (as did several other children around me). I duly obliged with a trip to the nearest facility only to be informed that we would then not be allowed to return to our seats. Strict orders from the Royal Ballet management, I was told, forbid anyone entering the auditorium during the performance. If the Royal is trying to draw youngsters into the ballet, is this really the way to treat them?

DEBRA CRAINE

DEE CONWAY

A treasured moment: Muriel Valtat and Stuart Cassidy as the white couple in Ashton's 1937 skating ballet, *Les Patineurs*

THEATRE: A story you can follow and two tales interwoven make for a brace of unusual pantos

Plotting by the stars

Aladdin
Hackney Empire

THESE days, pantos are usually so encrusted with celebrities, sportsmen and irrelevant jiggery-pokery that the story gets completely lost. Not so at the Hackney Empire. You can sit in one of *London's most beautiful theatres* and enjoy a story that actually bears some resemblance to the one that in its time has helped to keep Sheherezade alive and the great clown Grimaldi in financial clover. Why, the show even opens with a longish scene in which Abanazar, that would-be Tamberlaine or Saddam, proclaims his plans for world conquest in rhyming couplets.

Mark you, I don't think either the Arabian storyteller or the Anglo-Italian comic conceived of episodes in which tots are brought on stage to snort and miaow in *Old Macdonald had a Farm*. Still less could they have thought Aladdin would one day have a mother like Barry Howard's Widow Twanky, with his/her outrageous boobs and exotic dresses. Old Peking, down to its street markets and bits of Forbidden City, is prettily evoked by Alexander McPherson's cardboard-theatre sets. A huge blue willow-pattern dish appears as background to the story of lovers who escape from a world of heavy fathers and arranged marriages, only to be hunted and hounded to death. That sad little tale, performed by dancers in masks, makes *a nice contrast with a plot in which* everyone ends up rewarded, even John D. Collins's balefully grinning Abanazar.

John David's production could, I *suppose, be more inventive at times:* but on the whole it seems to me to reconcile contemporary expectation with folk-tale pretty well. Aladdin is a thoroughly charming Patti Boulaye and his/her brother, Wishee Washee, a forlorn and amiably dilapidated Dennis Waterman.

There are jokes about Leyton Orient, Hackney's new branch of Tesco and Tony Blair's teeth. None of them is very good, but who, in the end, cared? Not the children jumping to catch the sweeties thrown from the stage, that's for sure.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Oh, yes it is the Bard

Macbeth and the Beanstalk
Pleasance London

TWO London pantos this year are conflating the Scottish play with a fairy-tale, and a nervous watch is being *kept for early signs of Richard III Whittington* and *Aladdin and Cleopatra*. I suppose it is the kilt. Think of a pantomime dame and at once you have a man in a skirt.

The tale of Jack and his amazing legume is not an obvious mate for the Macbeths, and the writers of this panto, David Mitchell and Robert Webb, are unable to bring the two plots together until after the interval. This is when Jack (a dapper Lucy Taylor) goes up the bean ladder and finds Scotland in the clouds. Even then, after darting in and out the Glamis oven, he just sits down at the banqueting table between King Macbeth and Tinkerbell (don't ask) and his adventures are at an end.

Mitchell and Webb simply zigzag between the stories, which might not matter so much if they were equally funny. But although they ginger up Jack's lack of trading know-how with a champagne-swilling uncle and a talking faun, the ginger soon runs out. Whereas the possibilities in *Macbeth* are inexhaustible. In addition, it is Webb and Mitchell who play the two leads, and the script they supply for the scenes in which they appear is altogether sharper and madder.

Several members of the Upstage Company have played at the Footlights, and the bright, cheeky tone of the show derives from student sketches. Likewise, *the bracingly coarse* insults that hurtle round the court of King Duncan, where Banquo loves Macbeth and Macbeth thumps anyone who says his wife is really a man.

Bits of this are pretty funny, and probably seem funnier if a good dinner is taken beforehand. We are spared the Porter, and infinitely more enjoyable is the sight of people doubled up as they recall his (of course terrible) jokes. Christopher Richardson's settings cleverly allow the beanstalk to penetrate the clouds, and the director (Jonathan Dryden Taylor) generally cuts dull scenes short.

JEREMY KINGSTON

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr)
ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET
Derek Deane's New Production
THE NUTCRACKER
Mon-Sat 2.30 & 7.30pm
Tkts From £7.50

THE ROYAL BALLET
Box Office 0171 304 4000
at the Royal Festival Hall
Box Office 0171 960 4242.
Tickets also available from
Ticketmaster on 0171 957 4021
Today (First performance), Tomor, Mon 2.00, Wed 12.00
PETER AND THE WOLF/ TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER
Ton't Tomor, Mon, Tue 7.00, Wed 5.00, Thur 7.00 LES PATINEURS/ TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER

THE ROYAL OPERA
Box Office 0171 304 4000
at the Shaftesbury Theatre
Box Office 0171 379 5399.
Tickets also available from
Ticketmaster on 0171 957 4020.
Wed, Thur 7.30
THE MERRY WIDOW

THEATRES

ADELPHI
cc 24hrs (£1 bkg fee) 344 0055
'A show to die for' Telegraph
'Dripping with style' Express
CHICAGO
THE MUSICAL
RUTHIE HENSHALL UTE LEMPER
HENRY GOODMAN
NIGEL PLANER
Mon-Sat 8, Wed & Sat Mats 2.30
Extra Mats on 22, 23, 26 Dec.
No perfs 24/25 Dec

ALBERY 369 1730/344 4444
"You'll be dancing on air" D Ml
STEPPING OUT
THE NEW MUSICAL
'Tapping a rich vein of joy' Times
'IT'S THE FULL MONTY WITH TAPPERS-GLITTERING' D Mr
'JUST WONDERFUL' Int.H.Trib
Eves 8pm Mats Thur 3pm Sat 4pm
Special Xmas Matinee Tuesday

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003
cc 344 4444
'Dame Judi Dench is triumphant in David Hare's masterpiece'
D Mail
AMY'S VIEW
Directed by RICHARD EYRE
Prevs 5 Jan. Opens 14 Jan

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070
cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee)
Grps 0171 494 5454
BEN ELTON'S
POPCORN
"Electrifying...bloodcurdling comedy...I recommend it with relish" John Peters Sun.Times
"The West End has found its resident Playwright" IOS
Mon-Sat 8.00pm
Mats Wed 3.00pm Sat 4.00pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321
Andrew Lloyd Webber's
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH
White knuckle runs 19.45 daily
Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50
No perfs 24/25 Dec.
Extra mats 22/26 Dec

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6060
344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee)
Groups 494 5454
416 6075/413 3321/436 5588
GREASE
NOW IN ITS
5TH FANTASTIC YEAR!
LUKE GOSS as Danny until 24 Jan; IAN KELSEY From 26 Jan
"A Monster Hit" D.Mirror
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mat 3pm
BOOKING TO THE MILLENNIUM
24 Dec Mat only, no perf 25 Dec.
26/27 Dec at 3 & 7.30

COMEDY THEATRE 369 1731
cc 0171 344 4444
'EDWARD FOX's Macmillan a tour de force' E.Std.
'CLARE HIGGINS excellent' F.T.
in Hugh Whitemore's
A LETTER OF RESIGNATION
'One of the most literate and powerful plays in the West End.'
Time Out
Mon-Sat Evgs 7.45
Mats Wed 3.00, Sats 4.00

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444
3RD HILARIOUS YEAR
THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM *SHAKESPEARE (abridged)*
All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes
"Hilarious" Times
"Go Now!" Sunday Times
Sat & Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm
Extra Xmas perfs Dec 24 at 3pm
No perf dec 25, Dec 26 & Jan 2 4pm
THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)
Tuesday at 8pm

DOMINION 0171 656 1865/0990 203020/0990 204020/0171 420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 416 6096/0171 312 1997/ 0800 614903
DISNEY'S
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
THE NEW HIT MUSICAL
"AN ENCHANTING EVENING-GENUINELY GLORIOUS" D.Tel
"A FEAST OF GOOD FUN" D.Mail
New Group Rates-Now Booking
Mon-Sat 7.30, Wed & Sat Mats 2.30
Extra mats 22,23,26,29,30 Dec, 2 Jan
No perfs 24,25 Dec, 1 Jan

DONMAR WAREHOUSE 369 1732
THE FRONT PAGE
Ltd Season - 28 Feb
Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat Mats 3

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL
SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS
9TH BREATHTAKING YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.

DUCHESS BO/CC 24 hrs 0171 494 5075 494 5399/344 4444 (£1 serv chrg) Grps(8+) 0171 494 5454
SCISSOR HAPPY
'Shrieks of Laughter' S.Times
'more red herrings than a Soviet Trawler' The Guardian
Today 2.30 & 8.00; Tomor 5.30 & 8.30; Mon, Tue & Thur 8pm, Wed 2.30pm
Tkts from £7.50
New Booking Until April '98

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 8033/494 5398
NOW IN ITS 9th HIT YEAR
ROBERT DEMEGER DAVID PULLAN
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D.Mail
Ton't 8pm, Tomor 4pm & 8pm.
Mon-Thur 8pm
Running time 2hrs

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990/ 494 5388 (no bkg fee)
Groups 0171 494 5454
Winner of 19 Major Awards
The Royal National Theatre Production
PIP MILLER
ALISON FISKE JOHN BARDON
JB Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"Thrilling...Must be seen" D.Mail
"Two hours enthralling, visually stunning drama" D.Tel
Today & Tomor 5.00 & 8.15.
Mon-Thur 7.45: Mats Wed 2.30

GIELGUD 494 5065 (No bkg fee)
Eves 7.45 Mats Thur 3/Sat 4
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
MARTIN SHAW "A Joy" NY Post
Kate O'Mara Simon Ward
Michael Denison Dulcie Gray
Madeleine Potter Victoria Hasted
OSCAR WILDE'S CLASSIC COMEDY
AN IDEAL HUSBAND
"GREAT AND GLORIOUS" S.Tms
Special Xmas Matinee Tuesday

HAYMARKET B.O/cc 930 8800/344 4444 (bkg fee)
MAGGIE SMITH EILEEN ATKINS
JOHN STANDING
in EDWARDS ALBEE'S
A DELICATE BALANCE
with SIAN THOMAS
JAMES LAURENSON
ANNETTE CROSBIE
directed by ANTHONY PAGE
Eves 8pm. Wed & Sat mats 3pm
NB no perfs 22-27 Dec & no Mon perfs 29 Dec - 21 Feb

HAYMARKET BO/cc 930 8800/ *344 4444 (bkg fee)*
EDNA THE SPECTACLE
An Icon Returns
from 6 April

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 *(bkg fee)* CC 344 4444/420 0000 (fee)
Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
NOW BKG TO MAY 98
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC
0171 494 5020/344 4444
(£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000
Grps 0171 494 5450/413 3321
JIM DALE RETURNS AS FAGIN
OLIVER!
3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR
'LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE'
S Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
Some good seats avail now for weekday perfs
FINAL PERF 21 FEB '98

LONDON PALLADIUM 0171 494 5030/344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 494 5454/413 3321
SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER
Prevs 21 Apr. Opens 5 May

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1806
0990 500 800/344 4444/420 0000(bkg fee) Grps 416 6076
TIM RICE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
"Sends shivers racing down the spine" D Telegraph
Eves 7.45. Mats Wed & Sat 3
(no bkg fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-8pm).
£15 tickets for students avail Mon-Thu are bookable in advance.
Now booking to March 1998
Some seats avail at door Mon - Fri
No perfs 24/25 Dec
Extra mats 26/29 Dec

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252: Grps 0171 620 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000. OLIVIER Ton't 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 PETER PAN by JM Barrie in a new version by John Caird & Trevor Nunn. LYTTELTON Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.15 & 7.30 THE INVENTION OF LOVE a new play by Tom Stoppard. COTTESLOE Ton't 7.00, Tomor 1.30 & 7.00 OTHELLO by William Shakespeare

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079
24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000
Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T S ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616
First Call 0171 420 0000 cc *344 4444*
The return of the multi award-winning international sensation
SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW
UNTIL 3 JAN ONLY
"Magical, guaranteed to make even the glum thaw into happiness" Observer
Ton't 7.45 Tomor 4 & 7.45
Call B O for perf schedule

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 *cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee)* Grps 0171 413 3311
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 13TH
RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee)
BEST MUSICAL
Olivier/Drama Awards
Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
"...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm
Special Xmas Matinee Tuesday

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734/0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 (24hrs)
ADVENTURES IN MOTION PICTURES'
CINDERELLA
'Dazzling...startlingly original...a triumphant success" Observer
Mon-Sat 7.30 Wed & Sat Mats 2.30
Casting Hotline 0171 434 0194
SEASON EXTENDED
TICKETS AVAIL NOW FOR ALL PERFS
MUST END 14 FEB
Extra Mat 29 Dec

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987
First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
"Hot from Broadway. Enough energy to electrify a city." D Mail
SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ
THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER
Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 5.45 & 8.30. Sat 3pm & 8pm
NOW BOOKING TO SEPT 1998
Xmas week; Mon, Tue, Sat 3 & 8 Fri 6.45 & 8.30

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400
First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444
Groups 420 0200
LAST 3 MONTHS TO SEE BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG'S "MUSICAL MASTERPIECE"
Int Her Trib
MARTIN GUERRE
BEST NEW MUSICAL
LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS
MUST CLOSE 28 FEB
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

QUEENS BO/cc 0171 494 5040
cc 344 4444 Grps 494 5454/580 6793
BUGSY MALONE
THE MESSIEST SHOW *IN TOWN!*
Tue-Sat 7.30 Mats Tue Wed & Sat 2.30
EXTENDED 1 WEEK TO 17 JAN

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
STRATFORD 01789 295623/0541 541051 Ton't 7.30, Tomor 1.30 & 7.30 PST TWELFTH NIGHT SWAN ROMEO AND JULIET Tomor 7.30 TOP-ROBERTO ZUCCO
LONDON 0171 638 8891 Ton't 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 Barbican: MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR Pit: LITTLE EYOLF

Sadler's Wells at the Peacock Theatre (0171) 314 8800
WALLACE & GROMIT
ALIVE ON STAGE
Xmas Perfs Selling Fast
Until 10 Jan 7.30pm. Mats 3pm

SAVOY BO/cc 0171 836 8888
cc 420 0000
IAN RICHARDSON
"TOUR DE FARCE" D Tel
GRAHAM CROWDEN
"EXPLOSIVELY FUNNY" NotW
THE MAGISTRATE
by Arthur Wing Pinero
Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
LIMITED SEASON

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443
Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8
26 Dec 5 & 8
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
46th YEAR

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800
cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000
Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588
BUDDY
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
BUDDY
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30
Sats 5.00 & 8.30
SUNDAYS 4.00pm Kids ½ Price
ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
9th KNOCKOUT YEAR!
Now booking 'till the year 2000

TRICYCLE BO 0171 328 1000
SIVE by J B Keane
'Theatrical spell-binder' D.Tel
Mon-Sat 8pm, Sat 4pm

VAUDEVILLE LIVE! 0171 836 9987
cc 0171 344 4444 Groups 580 6793
JULIAN CLARY
UNTIL 3 JANUARY ONLY
Eves 8pm, Sat 4pm & 8pm
Extra Mat New Year's Eve 4pm
BEST AVAILABLE SEATS FROM £12.99

Victoria Palace 0171 834 1317, 420 0000, 344 4444, Amazing group rates. 420 0200, 413 3321
SPECIAL HOLIDAY AND CHRISTMAS SEASON!
FAME
"A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH!"
Mail on Sunday
FAME
The Musical
"BREATHTAKING!" Independent
Mon-Thu 7.30, Fri 5.30 & 8.30, Sat 3 & 7.30.
ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF.
"FOR A LIMITED SEASON UNTIL JAN 17"

WHITEHALL 0171 369 1735
Mon-Thur 9.00 Fri/Sat 7.00 & 9.30
KIM CRISWELL in
THE SLOW DRAG
90 cool minutes of HOT jazz
'THE BAND IS HOT AND THE SINGING HOTTER' Ind

WILTON'S MUSIC HALL
off Cable St, E1. BO 0171 928 2252
FIONA SHAW
T.S.ELIOT'S
THE WASTE LAND
Until 11 Jan. 37 minutes at 7.30pm & 8.45pm. Sunday perfs & 31 Dec at 5pm & 7pm
No perfs 23-26 Dec, 1 & 5 Jan

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS
Tel 0171 680 6222
or fax 0171 481 9313

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444
BEST COMEDY
Eve Standard Awards
BEST COMEDY
Laurence Olivier Awards
"ART"
A new play by Yasmina Reza
Trans by Christopher Hampton
'The perfect West End play"
Independent
Eves 8, Mats Wed 3, Sat & Sun 5
Xmas perfs 24 Dec 3pm, 26 Dec 5 & 8

The Royal Ballet
at the Royal Festival Hall
Les Patineurs/
Tales of Beatrix Potter
23 26 27 29 Dec at 7pm
Box Office 0171-960 4242

SEE THE LEGENDARY ROLLING STONES "LIVE" IN LONDON
£129 ALL INCLUSIVE P.P.
AUG 20 1998
BILL WRIGHT'S Capital Breaks
•FIRST CLASS SEATS
•4 STAR HOTEL
•EXECUTIVE TRANSFER HOTEL TO CONCERT
01 484 68 22 55
It's Quality all the way! Book today.
ALSO BOOKING BREAKS: GENESIS, GARY BARLOW, RIVERDANCE, SHIRLEY BASSEY & MANY MORE.

To advertise in The Times theatre listings please call our entertainments team on
0171 680 6222
or fax 0171 481 9313.

Up and down a crazy year

Richard Morrison looks back on a 1997 that reads more like an episode of *Tales of the Unexpected*

If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two impostors just the same . . . well, you may or may not be a Man, but you would be ideally equipped to write this account of a crazy, rollercoaster year in the arts. Triumphs and disasters overtook each other so frequently that I was reminded of the *Batman* comics of my misspent youth — the ones that left our hero clinging to some fraying rope at the end of each instalment, only to kerrpow him to ever more improbable victories seven nail-biting days later.

On the news pages we gawped at headlines of arts organisations in turmoil. How on earth could they survive? And was this what Tony Blair had in mind when, in a bluster of pre-election rhetoric, he said that the arts were "central" to his "vision of a decent and good society"?

Yet when we turned to the arts pages we found not only that the shows had gone on, but that there was scintillation everywhere. There were films . . . no, miracle of miracles, there were *British* films, worth seeing twice. New plays worth arguing about. Pop tunes worth whistling. New painting that aroused violent passions. There were even reported to be opera companies that put their most exciting performances on stage, rather than in front of Gerald Kaufman's Select Committee on Culture.

Covent Garden's boss said in the autumn that it could only get better. Oh really?

In fact it was in the field of opera that triumph and disaster intermingled most disconcertingly. Both English National Opera and the Royal Opera put on many creditable shows. Yet ENO began the year as a target for press abuse, having commissioned a £2.5 million study into the possibility of moving to a new theatre. It then parted unhappily from its general director half way through the year: and ended 1997 desperately fighting for its independence after Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, floated the idea of moving ENO to Covent Garden.

Very unsettling for ENO's punters. In January they were told by ENO chairman John Baker that the company had to quit the Coliseum to survive. "The logic of moving is compelling," he said. By November they were getting lectures from the stage on the importance of ENO staying put.

Still, at least ENO *has* a chairman and board. In 12 months its Covent Garden rivals have managed to lose a chief executive, a chairman, a board, a mountain of money on a disastrous ballet season at a rock venue in Hammersmith — and all credibility.

Interviewed by *The Times* shortly after the Royal Opera House had been bailed out (twice) to avoid bankruptcy, the new chief executive, Mary Allen, declared that things could only get better. Oh really? A fortnight later Kaufman's select committee published its scathing attack on Covent Garden. Allen survived: her lords and masters did not. Now a new board and chairman, yet to be appointed, must present the best possible case for the Royal Opera House's survival to an opera-reform committee chaired by Sir Richard Eyre.

The paradox of success and failure coexisting extended to the spoken theatre as well. Dire tales of famous theatres going bust (Liverpool Everyman) or running up heavy losses (Chichester, the RSC) were mixed with stories of heartwarming successes. The Old Vic was resurrected, albeit temporarily, as a magnificent centre for serious rep, thanks to the Mirvish millions and the Peter Hall flair. The reconstructed Globe was declared a hit: eccentric but refreshingly different, like its actor-manager Mark Rylance.

Lord Lloyd-Webber announced that his Really Useful Group — hitherto considered among the more buoyant showbiz institutions — was expecting big losses this year, and blamed it on the waning attractions of mega-musicals. But are they waning? Hardly. Disney's £10 million stage version of its screen hit *Beauty and the Beast* enchanted even the stoniest scribes, and *Chicago* won rave reviews for a sharp, saucy production featuring toothsome Ruthie Henshall and leggy Ute Lemper.

Amazingly, the films that people discussed most often this year mostly had a strong British input. The Isle of Wight's new hero, Anthony Minghella, saw his *English Patient* snatch nine Oscars. Better still, the film helped Michael Ondaatjie's complex novel to put on a remarkable 180,000 extra sales in three weeks.

The Full Monty, *Brassed Off* and *Fever Pitch* all struck chords with overseas audiences despite their downbeat English concerns. And *Wilde* redeemed the career of Stephen Fry, and also outraged Oscar Wilde's grandson, apparently because it portrayed Wilde as "too homosexual".

The visual art year was dominated by one show and, within that, one painting. The show was *Sensation*, the Royal Academy's attempt to hitch itself to trendy "Britart" and boost its empty coffers. It succeeded in both aims. The picture was Marcus Harvey's startling portrait of *Myra Hindley* made from children's handprints. It hit a nerve in the national psyche that jangled for weeks.

Meanwhile, an increasingly acrimonious row about admission charges soured the museums world. Lost in the argument was the underlying reality that Britain's museums, though stacked with beautiful things, are not perceived by the public as being exciting places to visit — certainly not compared with the sensations created abroad by the opening of Frank Gehry's astonishing Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and Richard Meier's fabulous Getty Centre in Los Angeles.

Pop had a peculiar year. The music press raved about cutting-edge groups like Radiohead — yet the top-selling songs remained obstinately non-musical in their appeal. Elton John performed with magisterial professionalism at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and notched up sales of 33 million for *Candle in the Wind*. A BBC promotion based on Lou Reed's *Perfect Day* turned into a huge hit. Single-sex groups such as the Spice Girls, Boyzone, All Saints and Five traded with brilliant success on that time-honoured formula: good looks, youth and energy.

A gangsta-rapper was shot dead; a pop star died in sordid circumstances in Sydney's poshest hotel; a song called *Smack My Bitch Up* created a predictable swish of moral outrage . . . yes, it was business as usual in the pop world.

Classical music suffered more than its fair share of gimmicks. From the sad David Helfgott's attempts to cash in on *Shine* to the tacky Mediaeval Babes, from Sir Paul McCartney's embarrassing *Standing Stone* to the latest lady violinist to be marketed in a wet T-shirt, there appeared to be a lot more hype than talent around.

Yet not everything was dumbed down. Big London festivals were devoted to contemporary composers such as James MacMillan and Gyorgy Ligeti. And Nigel Kennedy, the best British violinist of our age, made a superb comeback: his Festival Hall recital of Bach, Bartók and Hendrix was stunning. Later he announced that he now wants to be known simply as "Kennedy". He can call himself Vlad the Impaler for all his fans care, so long as he keeps playing like this.

Finally, what of our political masters? Rapture was unconfined in Luvviedom as Blair's babes and boys arrived in office. Eight months later, gloom is the order of the day. Almost nothing has changed, except that the Arts Council has been weakened by direct political interventions.

Still, Peter Mandelson's £800 million "Dome of Doom" is just two years away — though its contents are still a closely guarded secret, ostensibly to save the public from "premature frenzy". How thoughtful! Debacle-watchers sense that the fiasco of the century, if not the entire millennium, is now being constructed on a contaminated peninsula in southeast London. Too pessimistic? We shall see.

Cheers to a poor but happy medium

RADIO: Crackers for Christmas

There is a persistent belief that at Christmas virtually the entire nation gathers round televisions, leaving a few thousand rather tragic cases, mostly the old, the infirm, the poverty-stricken and radio critics, to clutch at a radio set for warmth. If so, those groups scarcely know how lucky they are.

Radio is the medium that makes a qualitative effort at this time of the year, eschewing the formulaic approach of television. Even stations not normally associated with original programming have made the effort. Talk Radio has a documentary coming up tomorrow about racism in football. It is called *The Law With The Flaw* and the flaw is that the 1991 Football Offences Act allows a prosecution only if two or more people are shouting offensive remarks, a loophole rather subtly exploited by thugs who spread themselves out in a crowd.

The sheer scale of the BBC makes its output the principal measure of radio at Christmas and it is here that the contrast with television is starkest. My own theory is that the relative financial poverty of radio makes it better, not worse, than television at Christmas because the poor have to try harder (especially under new Labour).

BBC Radio is also a coat of many colours. Listeners to some of the corporation's networks yesterday and today would scarcely guess it was Christmas at all. The award for dogged distinctiveness must go to Radio 5 Live which, in spite of seasonal references, had virtually nothing that was outside its usual remit. Yesterday the network even put out *Sportscall Live* with the caustic Dominick Diamond at 9am, just in case anyone had thought they were waking up to a day with a difference.

Radio 3 for the most part stands above the fray: sometimes its strenuous efforts to avoid looking tacky can be infuriating. It ran a secular schedule for most of Christmas Day and even the one overtly religious programme, yesterday's *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, was a repeat from Radio 4's Christmas Eve output.

Radios 1 and 2 become ever more distinctive as the months go by. The former is determinedly festive but not remotely religious, the latter is sentimental with touches of religiosity. But neither even attempts to match Radio 4 for presenting the very image of the British Christmas.

Yesterday's Radio 4 schedule had tradition written all over it without seeming old-fashioned. The Queen at 9am, a magic show at noon, some Dickens, classic comedy, a (very good) short documentary by Mark Tully about Joseph of Nazareth, and a down-to-earth, but Christmassy, drama.

The network that gets so many of its diehard listeners so worked up has been, reassuringly, its old self.

PETER BARNARD

All the electricity of the greats without the static

RECORDS:

Mike Ashman on a series of historic performances given new life by computer wizardry

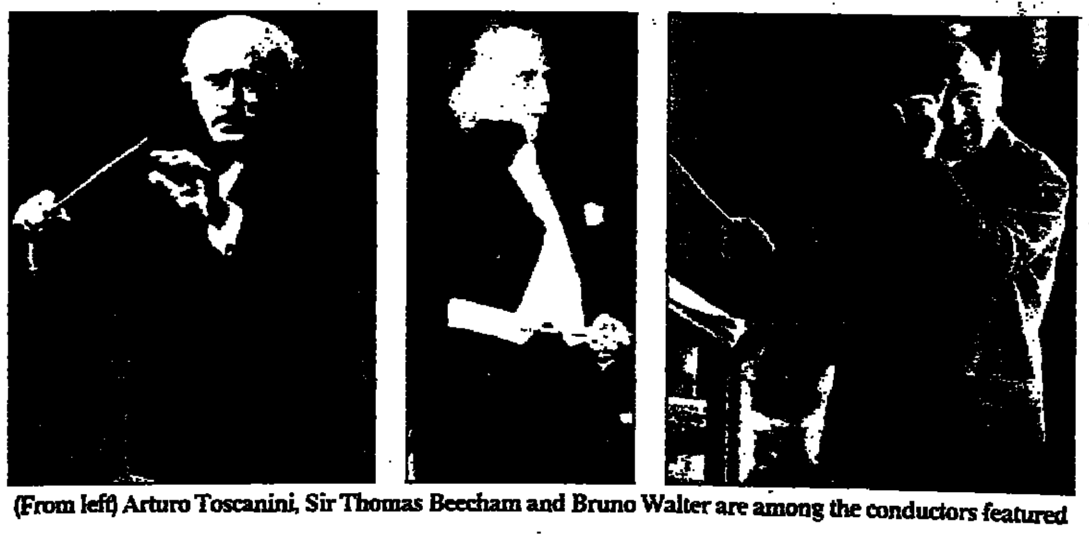
Get your rare Toscanini CDs here! Beecham bargains this way! Those are not cries heard regularly on the streets, even outside specialist record shops. But courtesy of Klaus Heymann's bargain label Naxos, they soon might be. At the beginning of December his company launched a Historical series at its regular low-price mark.

Characteristically, it plunged in at the deep end, issuing seven complete operas (on two and three-CD sets) recorded during the 1930s and 1940s, the early days of the famous radio broadcasts from New York's Metropolitan Opera. An eighth set, Johann Strauss's *A Night in Venice*, comes from a contemporary German broadcast.

Naxos's sources for this first release are the archives of the Canada-based Immortal Performances Record Music Society (IPRMS), recommended to Heymann by the series producer Jonathan Wearn. The recordings, mostly from radio "transcription discs", but some from private collectors' tapes, were remastered by the collector and IPRMS archivist Richard Caniell, then computer-cleaned.

The Met operas in this first tranche are Gluck's *Armide*, Gounod's *Faust*, Donizetti's *La Fille du Regiment*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Massenet's *Manon* and Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. An unconventional selection, certainly.

Heymann hopes the Historical series will interest the "increasingly sophisticated" Naxos buyer — someone, for example, who is buying all the label's new series of Liszt's solo piano music. Another hope is that the obsessive collector will be led from following just one artist to buying complete works or, best of all, that the series will intrigue a new generation of collectors. Now, for less than a tenner, you can hear the much-discussed Ezio Pinza, not moonlighting as Emile in *South Pacific*, but in his day job as Mozart's diabolic seducer, or as the Devil himself in *Faust* — and without that familiar 78rpm hail of static.


(From left) Arturo Toscanini, Sir Thomas Beecham and Bruno Walter are among the conductors featured

Try Naxos's 1942 *Don Giovanni* first. The conductor Bruno Walter was noted for both Mozart and opera, but mainly remembered these days from saintly recordings made in older age. Here, he launches Elvira's entrance aria at a tempo that makes today's period-instrument conductors sound like late Otto Klemperer. His fiery, dramatic reading balances the score well — winds, for example, never get lost. It's big, certainly, but it's always Mozart.

The cast has weight, but also wit. Alexander Kipnis, famous in tragic bass roles, is a nimble Leporello; Rose Bampton, soon to be Toscanini's Leonore, is Anna; Bidu Sayao, acclaimed for more consumptive heroines, is Zerlina; and, at last, we hear Pinza in his signature role (suavely aristocratic but, on some enchanted afternoons, obviously prone to run ahead of the beat).

The all-German performance (1938) of *A Night in Venice* shows off the in-the-blood style of singers Marcel Wittrisch, Erich Zimmermann and Karl Schmitt-Walter in unforcedly witty enunciation of sung and spoken text. As Donizetti's military orphan, the daughter of the regiment, it is the tiny French-Italian diva Lily Pons who stars — the *mot juste* for a lady noted for a spell in Hollywood and sparing attendance at rehearsals. It was recorded in December 1940, so all references to the French flag excite the audience, while guffaws and applause greet every move by the giant Italian buffo Salvatore Baccaloni's Sergeant Sulpice.

The real question for a popular label must be: can you listen to these performances in 1998 without relying on nostalgia and aural imagination to compensate for poor sound? No two companies, engineers, or even critics agree on how much it is legitimate to "interfere" with an original source. Naxos's source material was taken down in live performance. Pitch problems, missing fragments of music, the noise that relatively primitive reproducing systems made — all mean big work for a reissue engineer. The Naxos transfers I have sampled are interventionist, but the noise-reduction processes have not killed the atmosphere. They are good on pitch and continuity (a big achievement), if lacking the last refinement of acoustic consistency.

There are a few teething troubles. Naxos's booklets should carry a plot synopsis as well as an historical recording note, and spell names of performers and roles better. There is talk of drawing on other opera houses' archives — try Covent Garden's trawl from the 1930s, largely ignored by EMI — but care should be taken that the best items are selected for issue. Better Met performances of *Faust* and *Hoffmann* than Naxos's have circulated.

In the next year Naxos plans a further 18 operas, including *Rigoletto* (with charismatic baritone actor Lawrence Tibbett), Charpentier's *Louise* (with filmstar diva Grace Moore, conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham) and *The Magic Flute* from the prewar Salzburg Festival, where Toscanini conducted and one Georg Solti played glockenspiel.

There will also be an extensive Toscanini edition (initially 26 releases) which will provide alternatives to performances already released by RCA. It will come in two-CD packs and include the much sought-after 1930s New York Beethoven symphony cycle.

Naxos's new series is not, of course, about digital high fidelity, but it does provide inexpensive and listenable access to performances that are the musical equivalent of Hollywood's great black-and-white movie era.

A child of six could do that

The daubings of children have inspired much great modern art, as a new book demonstrates. **Richard Cork** reports

When Roger Fry mounted his volcanic Post-Impressionist show in 1910, London was shaken by this sudden exposure to the revolutionary forces of modern art. Horrified by the exhibition, my predecessor on *The Times* claimed in this newspaper that "it throws away all that the long-developed skill of past artists had acquired and perpetuated. It begins all over again — and stops where a child would stop ... it is the rejection of all that civilisation has done, the good with the bad."

Many of the incensed viewers who thronged the Grafton Galleries, and vented their indignation in the visitors' book, agreed with this unbridled verdict. The survey, spanning innovatory developments in European art from Manet to Matisse, offered to their affronted eyes evidence of galloping infantilism. They considered it wilfully crude, the daubing of charlatans in callow flight from everything a mature, sophisticated and technically accomplished artist should be expected to produce.

Similar accusations have been hurled at audacious work ever since. "A child of six could do it" continues to be trotted out as a well-worn expression of outrage by intemperate gallery-goers today. But the viewers who regurgitate this platitude fail to understand that artists themselves find nothing offensive in such an accusation. On the contrary: they regard it as a compliment well worth receiving. For the work produced by children has been a central source of inspiration to many major 20th-century painters.

Until now, the full extent of their debt has not been appreciated. But in an illuminating and at times revelatory new book, Jonathan Fineberg reveals just how dependent the great masters of Modernism were on child art. Fineberg, who is Professor of Art History at the University of Illinois, became fascinated by the subject when an invitation arrived from the Detroit Institute of Arts. They asked him to organise an exhibition directly comparing children's pictures to outstanding 20th-century works of art. He felt sceptical at first. After all, how far could anyone argue that the protean genius of Picasso was fundamentally dependent on stimulus provided by untutored image-makers, whose experience of the world is so limited? The truth, however, swept away Fineberg's initial doubts, and made him embark on "the most exciting journey into art history I have ever undertaken".

He turned first to Kandinsky, whose pioneering pre-1914 abstractions had already been the focus of his doctoral dissertation. Like other historians, he knew that Kandinsky had pointed out in 1912 how "the child is indifferent to practical meanings since he looks at everything with fresh eyes, and he still has the natural ability to absorb the thing as such". Kandinsky argued in his theoretical writings that child art showed him how he could jettison "worldly" perception, and discover instead a more universal language. But Fineberg suspected, when looking again at the work Kandinsky produced, that it included a hitherto unguessed-at range of references to particular children's pictures.

> ❛ At the end of my life I will recover all the force of my childhood ❜

Was it possible that Kandinsky, and other painters of his calibre, owned collections of child art? And might they still be preserved somewhere? An overwhelmingly positive answer came from Fineberg's first inquiry: the Lenbachhaus in Munich. Here, in storage, was the archive of Gabriele Munter, the artist who lived with Kandinsky before the First World War. It still contained the children's pictures they had collected during those prodigiously inventive years. And many of them, especially the "primitive" work produced by four-year-olds, were used in Kandinsky's own paintings.

A coloured drawing of an elephant, by a Russian girl called Lilja Kenda, is quoted in his 1909 canvas of the same subject. But Kandinsky's animal seems even more markedly "naive" than Lilja's. He encloses the elephant in thick, brusque outlines, and paints on its back a drape spattered with freely applied stabs of sensuous colour. Kandinsky was obsessed by what he termed "the inner sound of the subject". He used this remarkable collection of images as a springboard for his own, radical attempt to escape from naturalism and arouse the spiritual consciousness of the viewer.

Other artists found fruitful inspiration in the work they had produced during their own childhoods. Impatient with the academic paintings he was making in Rome, Klee discovered some early drawings preserved in his parents' shed. He found them far more exciting, in their wit and freedom from convention, than his current work. Between 1903 and 1905 Klee made 17 *Inventions* which, in their grotesquely distorted comedy, owe a great deal to the example of his boyhood pictures. For the rest of his career he would find stimulus in the spontaneity, directness and raw dynamism of children's work.

Picasso likewise saw it as a lifelong preoccupation. Accompanying Sir Herbert Read round a child art show in Paris after the Second World War, he studied the exhibits with rapt attention. Then, turning to Read, he said: "When I was the age of these children I could draw like Raphael. It took me many years to learn how to draw like these children." Although he never used their images in his work, Picasso studied his own children's pictures with enormous delight. When painting Claude and Paloma Picasso making art, he used a style frankly indebted to their swift, impulsive simplicity. And he lamented the fact that his father, a professor of drawing, had encouraged him to vie with academic ideals from an early age.

Joan Miró discussing a drawing by his daughter Dolorès with her: he preserved her pictures with great care in annotated envelopes

Time and again in the present century, artists recognised how much they had to gain by casting adult conventions aside. The energy and exhilaration of Miró's work is paralleled in the pictures produced by his daughter Dolorès. He relished her zest, finding in it a confirmation of the direction he had himself pursued. Miró preserved her early pictures with great care in annotated portfolio envelopes, and even sent one to Kandinsky in 1935. Around 30 years later, he declared that "the older I get and the more I master the medium, the more I return to my earliest experiences. I think that at the end of my life I will recover all the force of my childhood."

He succeeded in doing so, arriving in his old age at a vision that Fineberg describes as "a subversive innocence". Those three words can stand as a telling summary of the essential attraction of children's pictures. Their contribution to the irrepressible vivacity of modern art has been invaluable, and deserves a special accolade at a time when education has been moved to the very centre of the political stage.

- The Innocent Eye: Children's Art and the Modern Artist *by Jonathan Fineberg is published by Princeton University Press, price £60*

Boxing Day Jumbo Crossword Competition

ACROSS

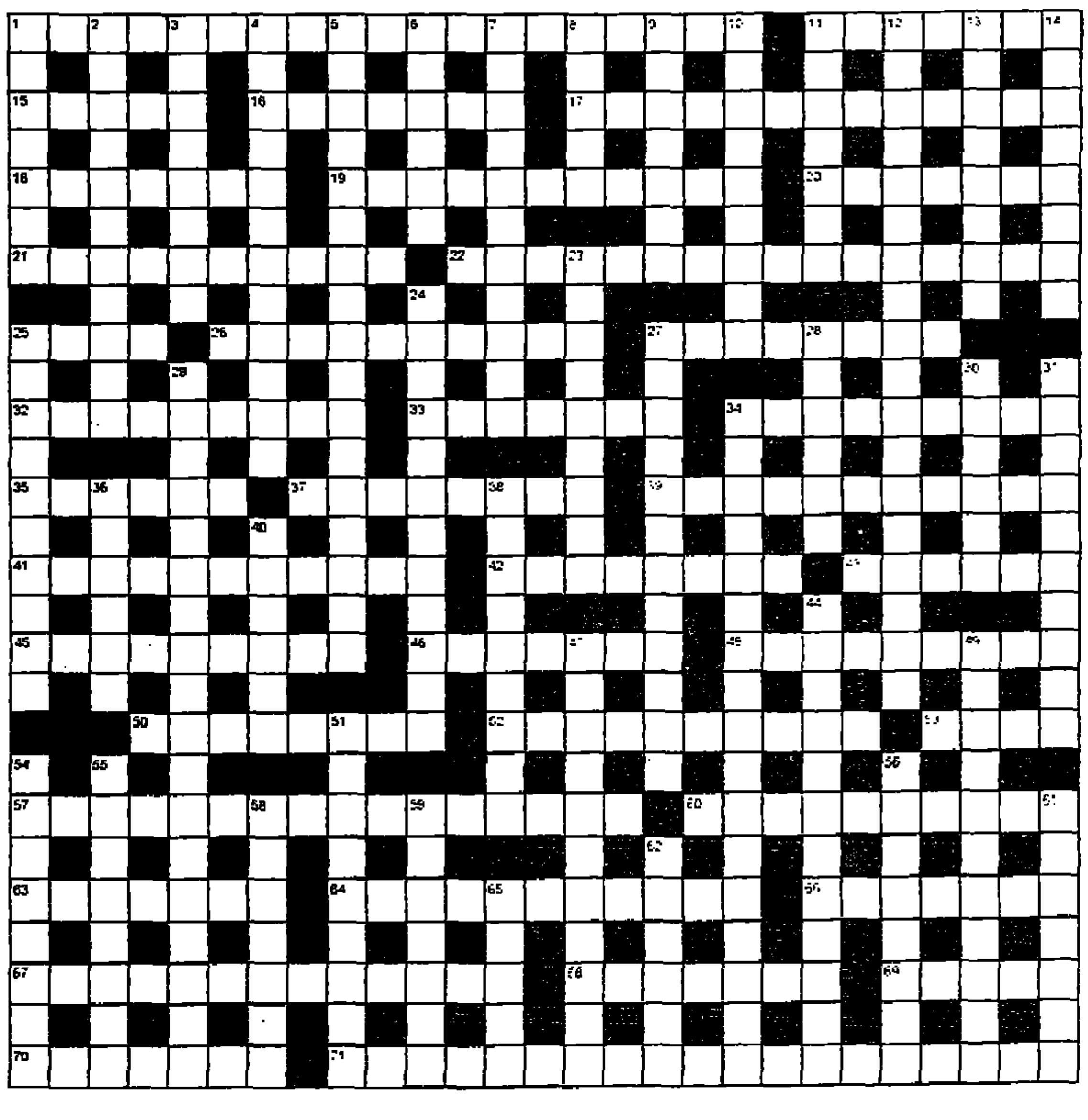
1 When will we sing in celebration today? (2,3,5,2,7)
11 Rejected what Jack's wife did about female material (7)
15 One taking liberty could be at it! (5)
16 Equestrian always carries key books (7)
17 This isn't made plain in the bar (4,9)
18 Lock rented jewellery first (7)
19 Not contemplating being inconsiderate (11)
20 One missing flight – East German, well-off (7)
21 Am I still operating illegally? (10)
22 Disagreeing, when playing big hits and other numbers (2,5,3,6)
25 To some extent, one appears to go with the tide (4)
26 Stick by legal term, perhaps an invention of the Musicians Union (3,7)
27 Figure a cynic may apply to Military Intelligence (8)
32 This may cover Jack, until brief paragraph's edited (9)
33 This Scottish town could provide equipment for salon within the hour (7)
34 Far-seeing scientist may use this (9)
35 In Crete, perhaps, I give a poetry reading (6)
37 Complaint – English king's mistress rejected for Shakespearean role (8)
39 Revised view of clairvoyant? (6,5)
41 A force to be reckoned with, operating from the centre of things (11)
42 Assistance with a wager – deliberate eavesdropping (8)
43 County near collapsing — that's one in the eye for spectators! (6)
45 Outcome of section in bowls tournament (3,6)
46 Implement a chef's requirement (7)
48 It's antique, engraved on the outside – could be beaten? (9)
50 Show what's been programmed (8)
52 Breathe in gas fuels, and faint, going wobbly (10)
53 Element of insulting ridicule in certain bars (4)
57 There'll be room for me to fit, in theory (8,8)
60 It could make you tense, having to study Latin (10)
63 Line up, chatting, before dance? It should put one in pocket (3,4)
64 Play the queen in 1252 – turbulent part of declining years (11)
66 Most proud of cosy home, after state one found first (7)
67 Found guilty, I'd meant to reform? Absolutely! (13)
68 A page of seasonal entertainment (7)
69 Ass is in a hole, without wife's backing (5)
70 Show approval of last runner, not the leader (7)
71 Circled the right letter, as proof of one's claim (10,5,4)

DOWN

1 Our mild is brewed in metal container (3,4)
2 This animal no longer usually accompanies us, Rex (11)
3 Does it help one observing spectacle in New York? (8)
4 Current fashion (12)
5 A reasonable display, uncharacteristically low-key (9,3,5)
6 Drink first two up, given the choice (6)
7 More attractive pair coming in, comparatively vivacious (11)
8 Half of them satisfied one of the local workers (5)
9 Greek chap will shortly introduce three points (7)
10 It's vital, when going after the money (9)
11 Anything up with sheep that's been duplicated? (7)
12 So Nijinsky may have rejected a meal, given first-hand information (4,3,6,5)
13 One's bound to see mistakes in the paper (8)
14 Boarding steam loco – your traditional gem (8)
23 Knowing little of part of the reign or ancestry (9)
24 Prepared disclaimer – didn't injured lion-tamer do this, when told to? (6,6)
25 Sweet-sounding combination that may take Brazil apart (10)
27 So I'm very flip, when disposed to do this? (12)
28 Not a square, having more breadth, perhaps (6)
29 One's made a quick pile, producing fuel (4,7,7)
30 A bit of spirit shown by the head (6)
31 Are such compliments passed out by socialists? (4-6)
34 But it shouldn't make one collapse on Boxing Day! (9,8)
36 Woman nominated has the ability to lead the country (6)
38 Left article to be put in late in the day, making certain modifications (9)
40 Iron fixed up with safety device designed to give out (6)
44 Said *au revoir* in Madrid (5,2,5)
47 Sleep with cubist, disgracefully easily led (11)
49 The facility to fill up a field with fruit trees? (7,4)
51 Is one supposed to wink at other motorists? (9)
54 A feature of a coat of many colours? (8)
55 Featuring Burns in a class for pupils of a certain ability (8)
56 I should replace first vowel in word game – not a good draw (8)
58 My contract binds me to proceed with refurbishments – of Globe, that is (7)
59 Show a bit of leg – enjoy the party! (7)
61 Secure way to earn a living in broadcasting system (7)
62 Summons made VIP squirm (6)
65 69 perhaps, about past in great depth (5)

TEST YOUR WORD POWER IN OUR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Prizes of £100 will be given for the first
six correct solutions opened on Monday,
January 12, 1998. Entries should be sent to:
Boxing Day Jumbo Crossword (142), *The Times*,
1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.
The winner and solution will be published
in *Weekend* on Saturday, January 17



NAME ....
ADDRESS ....
.... POSTCODE ....

Times Two Crossword

There are no prizes for this competition. The answers will be published on Monday, December 29

ACROSS

1 One worn by king of Hungary (3,5,2,2,7)
11 Strife, clashing (7)
15 Courted (5)
16 Looking lasciviously (7)
17 Shak. misanthrope play (5,2,6)
18 Spring back; tied again (7)
19 Rusting process (11)
20 Completely finished (3,4)
21 Ridiculing (10)
22 Naivety (6-10)
25 Pert girl (4)
26 Flock together (10)
27 Coin-operated calling apparatus (8)
32 A pastry, a preserve (9)
33 Gemstone: one reflective at night (4-3)
34 Candy floss stuff (4,5)
35 Put right (6)
37 One to be sniffed in (8)
39 Dampening (the air) (11)
41 Proper (behaviour) (Fr.) (5,2,4)
42 Undeviating (8)
43 Set-piece fight (6)
45 Eg Derby runner (9)
46 Across (ship's) path (7)
48 *Infamous* (9)
50 Diagonally-corded (tyre) (5-3)
52 Exmoor novel *(Blackmore)* (5,5)
53 Nurse; incline (4)
57 Being too sweeping (16)
60 (Church) factionalist (10)
63 Son of Polonius (7)
64 Wave meaningfully (11)
66 Item of clothing (7)
67 Rough result (13)
68 (Cardinal nominated) secretly (2,5)
69 Do hastily, poorly (5)
70 First RC president of US (7)
71 Ticklish legal decisions have unwelcome effect (4,5,4,3,3)

DOWN

1 In direction of (7)
2 Immoderateness (11)
3 Maoist Cultural Revolutionary (3,5)
4 Benevolent (4-8)
5 Keats *immortal Bird!* poem (3,2,1,11)
6 Courage; soul (6)
7 Meaningful (11)
8 On top (5)
9 Skirt length (7)
10 Unimportant person (9)
11 To cheat (7)
12 Made eg a will (7,4,7)
13 Summary introduction (8)
14 Suspicion (8)
23 Compere (9)
24 Trading fleet (8,4)
25 Ledge to support standing monk (10)
27 BC (era) (3-9)
28 Badgers; dogs (6)
29 *Speak appropriately* (6,3,5,4)
30 Prejudiced against elderly (6)
31 Moved forward (10)
34 Classical band (8,9)
36 Abrasive stone (6)
38 *Agamemnon* dramatist (9)
40 Emergency signals; wide-bottomed trousers (6)
44 Permanent source of amusement (8,4)
47 Study of flight (11)
49 *Past one's prime* (4,3,4)
51 Block of text (9)
54 Lord Chancellor's seat (8)
55 Never-growing up boy (5,3)
56 Food of gods (8)
58 In unpleasant way (7)
59 More rudely healthy (7)
61 One manipulated by another (4-3)
62 South American plain (6)
65 Type of bond (chem.); a Greek order (5)

EDUCATION

Midnight service on BBC1 made history by featuring a female choir, says **Hugh Thompson**

Girls achieve critical Mass

PETER NICHOLLS

Note perfect: girl choristers Khetsiwe Gile-Rowley, Beanie Howard, Olivia Paterson and Rosemary Moorsom practise at Salisbury Cathedral

The sung Eucharist on BBC1 on Christmas Eve came from Salisbury Cathedral. Not only was it among the most popular televised services of the year, but also it was a small piece of history for church and women. For leading the singing was not only a boys', but also a girls' choir.

Five years ago, there were no girls' choirs in English cathedrals. It was then that Salisbury Cathedral preparatory school switched to coeducation. The school decided that the process would be complete, and consistent with the emancipation of women in the Church, only if the school supplied 19 girl choristers as well as 19 boy singers. Today that practice is common in a dozen cathedrals.

For the girl choristers, who sing 12 hours a week on average, on top of their school work, the national event on Christmas Eve was, although special, all in a day's work.

The lead chorister, Rosemary Moorsom, 12, says: "The most important thing for us is that it puts us on a par with the boys. There is still a feeling that they are the real choir and we are something else. Performing like this on television helps change that view."

All the girls join at eight — after tests that look for musical ability (they have to sight-read at nine), a good voice and academic attitude — and leave at 13. Each week there are eight hours of practice and four hours of performing.

Khetsiwe Gile-Rowley, whose parents live in Hong Kong, says: "The greatest thing is the opportunity to sing and enjoy the music. We would like more free time and I wish my parents were here, but I love the sense of achievement which comes from doing something well. If any girl is interested in joining I say go for it, you learn to love the music and you make such cool friends."

There is a healthy competition between the boys' and girls' choirs, although they often sing together. The girls still feel that because the boys have been around longer they are given better facilities and prominence.

For a start, because the boys' choir is better off financially, the boy choristers have at least half their fees paid, while the girls get just a quarter off. "It's all a bit unfair. Last year we went to France while the boys' choir went to America. The boys have only been singing 900 years," says Sarah Mynott, another choir member.

Because they have been trained to professional standards, most girl (and boy) choristers go on to get full musical scholarships to public schools, though typically some are so talented that they have the ability to gain academic scholarships as well. All reach grade six in at least one instrument, and some reach grade eight, by the time they leave.

There is little like a choir school in terms of training. The choristers must practise till perfect. They have to perform, be ready and be on time wearing cloaks and surplices. They learn discipline: because they are performing and practising so much music they have to learn time management to do their other work.

As the acting headmistress Christine Rolt says: "There is no shirking, they cannot say they don't feel like it. They develop terrific team spirit. The show has to go on. Of course the girls grumble. They would like more free time to chat, watch soap operas and experiment with make-up.

"What does happen is that they tend to use their little free time very constructively. In a few years I can't imagine there will be a cathedral in Britain which denies girls the opportunity to be choristers."

Although going to church seems to be in continual decline, choral music, to judge by the sales of CDs, bucks the trend. Most people, whatever their faith, cannot resist a good carol, requiem, Gregorian chant or one of the dozen or so classic hymns. Although the choristers enjoy the music and the challenge of new construction, "they too prefer the belters to the Tudor music", says Salisbury Cathedral's director of music, Simon Lowle.

"The difference between the two choirs is that a boy's voice before it breaks has a lovely resonance and the girls overall have a sweeter tone, so one adjusts the music accordingly," he says. "Musically, there is no difference in talent. The more you push them, the more you get out of them.

"Naturally they have their off-days and they have days when they are heavenly. It is sometimes easy to forget, since they are so professional, that they are children."

The choristers, too, admit to getting it wrong occasionally, but they are so far ahead of the congregation musically that nobody notices. Like seasoned professionals, they also know when they have captured the audience.

Spelling out a condition

Why **Hazel Martin** is relieved to find that her son has dyslexia

I got my best Christmas present a few days before the big day this year: the news that my son is dyslexic.

He is 13, an affectionate kid with a good sense of humour, nice manners and friends, and he is sometimes disconcertingly shrewd. His school reports, however, tell another story. They are symphonies in D and E, with a leitmotif of "lacks organisation", "lacks effort", "easily distracted" and "occasionally disruptive".

We've lectured him endlessly on pulling his socks up, nagged, threatened and used bribes — and none of it has worked. He does better for a while and then it drifts back to Ds and Es.

On and off I had thought there might be a block to his concentration since infant school. He was slow to read, knew his letters but could *not* make words. However, by the time the word "dyslexia" had formed in my mind, he was reading. He daydreamed through junior school, but he passed the entry test for grammar school.

The first year involved a slog through lost books and timetables, and, of course, poor reports. But Chris was reading and writing fluently and he was obviously bright. My brother once showed him the sign alphabet, and Chris flawlessly demonstrated it to a friend who is deaf. And, as other mothers confirm, boys are naturally forgetful and disorganised. OK, I thought, I am looking for excuses. He is just a lazy little toad. So the lectures continued and we struggled on.

Then, after the last pitiful report, his father and his school head of year discussed the possibility of sterner discipline. Coming down on him "like a ton of bricks" was the phrase used, and it made me cringe. That and the fact that he got his first adolescent pimple spurred me into action. We had had enough of a struggle. If we came down on him as he was going into the moody, awkward years of adolescence, we would all be in deep trouble.

I decided to discount the excuses, so I rang the British Dyslexia Association to find out how to go about eliminating dyslexia from the problems. "Go through your GP and the school and it is likely to take two years," they said. "Go to a chartered psychologist for a private assessment and it is expensive but you will know straight away."

So we forked out £350 for a private assessment and now we know: Chris is dyslexic. Not only is he dyslexic; he is very bright. His verbal IQ is 123, which puts him in the top 6 per cent of the population, so he has been masking it.

I wept when I got the news — with relief because he is not just lazy, with regret for not having had him assessed sooner, and for all those times I had told him to get his act together when clearly he had been making a huge effort.

> His school reports had a leitmotif of 'easily distracted'

I do wonder what might have happened if we had not had £350. And why, if 10 per cent of the population is dyslexic to some degree, there is not more information to help parents and teachers to spot the tell-tale signs — not just an inability to read or mirror-writing, but essays with no logical order, problems with foreign languages, easy loss of concentration, disorganisation, difficulty in planning time, lost or forgotten homework and an inability to listen and take notes at the same time. These are classic symptoms, and Chris showed them all.

Specialised tutoring will help, and Ritalin, the drug prescribed for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, may be right for him. We will see. What support we'll get from his school also remains to be seen.

As for Chris, he is not thrilled about this new label, but he is reassured that he is in good company: Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Tom Cruise and Whoopi Goldberg, to name but a few, were or are dyslexic.

"Just think, Mum," he said with a grin the morning after we got the news, "once we get this dyslexia sorted there'll be no stopping me."

It was, as I say, a wonderful Christmas present.

- *British Dyslexia Assocation Helpline (0118 966 8271)*
Dyslexia Consultancy: Josephine Durling, Chartered Psychologist (01245 420462)

EDUCATION

COURSES

WANTeD
KEEN READERS
(Spot our errors!)

Would you like to earn £9 to £12 an hour part or full-time working from home reading books for publishers and other organizations.

Many freelance proofreaders and editers have been trained by Chapterhouse over the passed seven years. (Read some of their comments in our Prospectus).

People with no prevous experience, but a keen interest in books, have established there own business with our help in technique and marketing.

Not everyone can be succesful, but with application this could be the career you have been looking for.

You need enthousiasm and a sharp eye. Your age and background is irrelevent. Send this advertisement marking all the mistakes you can find (or telephone us). We will send a FREE PROSPECTUS of our correspondence and summer training courses without obligatoin

Chapterhouse,
2 Southernhay West, Exeter, EX1 1JG.
Telephone: 01392 499488, Fax: 01392 498008

Learn French fast

Intensive French Classes - Starting now

For a free brochure call
0171 723 7471

Alliance Française
Sponsored by the French Government
Registered charity no 276882.

Alliance Française de Londres 1 Dorset Square, London NW1 6PU
and 4 Morwell St, London WC1B 3AN E-mail: info@alliancefrancaiselondres.org.uk

EASTER REVISION

EASTER COURSES
AT
HERTFORD COLLEGE
OXFORD

A-LEVEL & GCSE

For a Prospectus call:
01865-242670

Cherwell Tutors
Greyfriars
Oxford OX1 1LD

SCHOLARSHIPS

HARROW SCHOOL

The Peter Beckwith Harrow Trust

Offers two scholarships every year to pupils currently being educated in state schools. The candidates are expected to show exceptional academic potential and to excel in at least one further field of sporting, musical, dramatic or creative activity.

Any boy who is over 10 and under 12 on 1st September 1998 and who is attending a state school in the UK is eligable to sit for the 1998 scholarship. Boys should normally have attended a state school for at least the previous three years.

The successful candidates will be offered a place at an acceptable preparatory school for two years followed by admission to Harrow School.

Financial assistance is provided, up to the full value of fees if necessary, for seven years of schooling.

For further details please contact:-
Mrs Angie Peppiatt
The Peter Beckwith Harrow Trust
Hill Place House, 55a High Street,
London SW19 5BA.
Tel 0181 944 1288 Fax. 0181 944 1054

The closing date for the receipt of applications is Tuesday, 27th January 1998

Registered Charity Number 1015344

EDUCATION

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
EDUCATION
FORTHCOMING FEATURES
1998

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT
Friday 9th January
Sunday 11th January

EASTER REVISION
Friday 16th January
Sunday 18th January

BOARDING SCHOOLS
Friday 23rd January
Sunday 25th January

MBA SUPPLEMENT
Monday 26th January

POSTGRADUATE COURSES
Friday 20th February
Sunday 22nd February

For further information about these features or to advertise please contact the Education Team on:

Tel: 0171 680 6800
Fax: 0171 782 7899
Email: simon.mallinson@newsint.co.uk

EDUCATION

ARBITRAGE TRADER

Leading LIFFE company requires Arbitrage Trader.

Applicants will have held a similar position within the industry and must have two years experience. They must be able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of this specialised areas of futures trading.

Expected salary package - £20,000

Apply in writing to Box No 9152

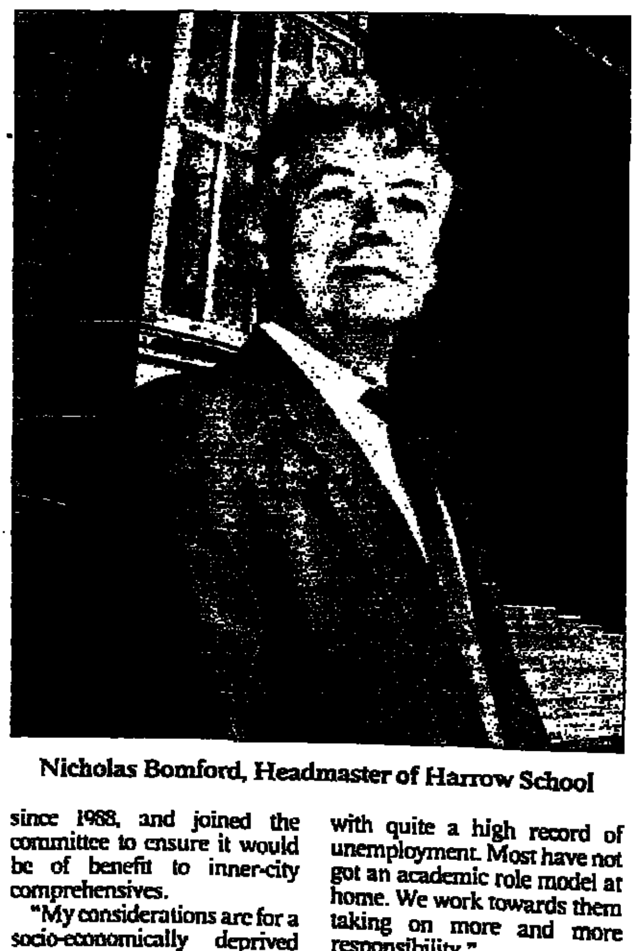
CARTOONING FOR PROFIT

Make money from your cartooning and illustration skills. Study from home to make a new career or profitable second income.
For a free Prospectus call:
0800 371 500

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
BOX No. ....
c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS
P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST,
LONDON, E1 9GA

David Charter finds mutual support in the independent and state sector

Creating leaders of schoolchildren



Nicholas Bomford, Headmaster of Harrow School

From the lofty heights of the headmaster's office at Harrow School, you can see across London as far as Pat Hull's school in the East End.

Central Foundation School for Girls is a world away from the £14,200-a-year boys' boarding school, yet both heads are working together to improve leadership training for youngsters. Nicholas Bomford, the Headmaster of Harrow, is chairman of the study group, Training for Leadership and Responsibility in the 21st Century, and Pat Hull is a prominent committee member.

The group was set up to highlight the best practice from schools of all types to answer the growing chorus from politicians and employers for more vocational training. The Government is itself considering ways of testing the "key skills" of communication, numeracy and teamwork as part of the entry criteria for university.

The need for guidance became apparent to Mr Bomford when Harrow wanted to update its leadership training and had to develop programmes for the report.

"We asked for samples of good practice, and were sent a number of papers by schools in the independent and maintained sector. We hope to present a document next year," he says.

"At Harrow, we want to make certain that everyone is involved and the idea of responsibility is developed — both for themselves and others."

This kind of training has an even more fundamental role at Central Foundation School. Without self-confidence, many of the mainly Muslim pupils may not fulfil their potential.

"Most of the reports from schools had been to do with Outward Bound and military cadet training," she says. But team-building trips to faraway places have little relevance for Ms Hull, who has been head since 1988, and joined the committee to ensure it would be of benefit to inner-city comprehensives.

"My considerations are for a socio-economically deprived area where most of the pupils are bilingual and there is a cultural constraint on what children are allowed to do independent of their families.

"It means most of the training for leadership and confidence-building has to take place inside the school. Most pupils are from large families with quite a high record of unemployment. Most have not got an academic role model at home. We work towards them taking on more and more responsibility."

She has introduced student councils to give girls a say in school life. The older pupils act as mentors for the 11-year-olds. And on an individual level, each girl agrees the term's targets with her teachers in every subject.

The changes are beginning to show academic as well as personal results. Central Foundation did not have a sixth form until 1991, but is now sending more and more girls to university. "We have got people reading medicine and we have just got our first girl into Oxford, reading engineering science. That is a real boost."

So what can independent schools such as Harrow learn from leadership training in a comprehensive, and vice versa? "I would love to think they can learn from us," says Ms Hull. "I think it is an excellent idea for schools across the sector to share information and support each other. It picks up on some of the things the Government has been talking about. Although I think politicians are not aware of how much people in the state and independent sector already share."

Central Foundation has already been exchanging sixth-formers for A-level lessons with James Allen's Girls' School in Dulwich. "It is invaluable for socialising and raising students' horizons and opportunities as well as getting to know people outside the East End. Long-term friendships are being formed. We intend to do it again."

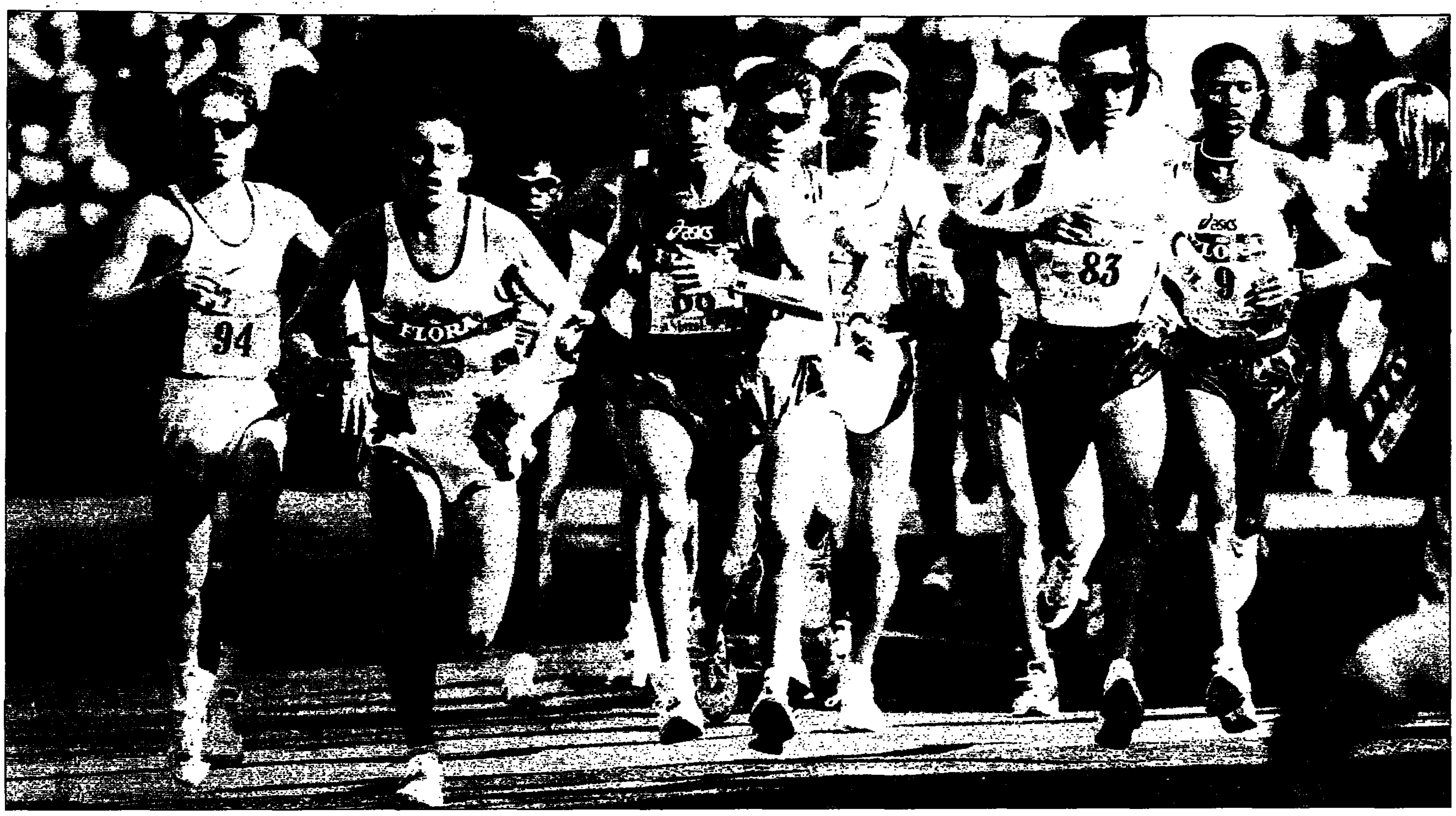
Training for Leadership and Responsibility in the 21st Century was set up and sponsored by World Challenge Expeditions, which runs trips to countries such as India and Ecuador for teenagers.

Mark Fawcett, its communications director, says the company wanted to improve skills training for all pupils, especially those unable to go on trips abroad. "Our programmes aim to develop key skills such as leadership and team-working but we think that travelling overseas for an expedition is not for everybody, although the essential skills are something everybody could benefit from," he says. "It is also timely in that key skills training is what both politicians and schools are crying out for."

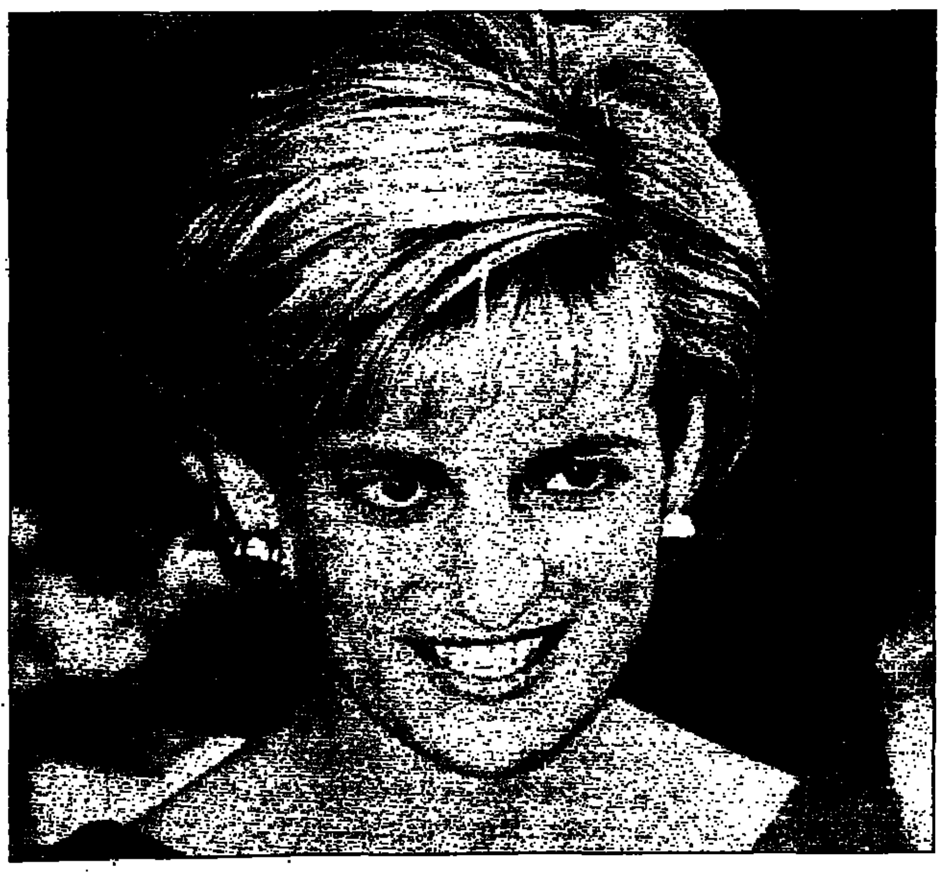
هكذا من الإصل

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

A chance to go the distance for Diana



Wanted: 20 people to run the marathon as fundraisers for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund



The Times has *secured 20 places* for its readers to take part in the 1998 Flora London Marathon and help raise more than the target of £5 million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

The Times 20 will be part of Team Flora, in which all the runners will be fund-raising for the Memorial Fund, one of the two official charities for the race next year. A special panel has been set up to select readers wanting to 'Run for Diana' over the historic distance through the streets of London on Sunday, April 26.

The Times will also publish the complete results of the race — from the international heroes and heroines at the front to the determined joggers at the back.

There has already been unprecedented interest in the 1998 event. A record 100,000 people applied to enter, including 20,000 who specifically responded to an invitation to run for the Memorial Fund.

This year, it was televised in more than 100 countries and 600,000 people lined the London streets to cheer on the 29,135 competitors, who ran from Greenwich to the Mall, triumphantly finishing the course of 26 miles 385 yards.

The fund-raising for the Memorial Fund will be poignant for many of the competitors next year because they will be running on the streets where the coffin of the Princess was carried at her funeral on September 6. It will also be 10 years since she was the official starter of the 1988 event.

Applications should not come from people who have already been informed that they have been selected to take part in the 1998 race.

They should be from those people, who have already been rejected or from anyone else who feels they can be inspired by the attempt to run the epic distance. Both men and women, experienced runners and novices, will be considered.

The names of the chosen 20 will be published in *The Times* on Monday, January 19 and the newspaper will then highlight some of the runners' stories and preparation in the build-up to the event itself.

All the members of Team Flora will be supported and helped with all aspects of the marathon running and fund-raising, from training and nutrition to self- motivation, by a specially-selected support team. Every penny raised by the 250 runners will go to the Memorial Fund, as all administration costs will be covered by the Flora London Marathon.

THE TIMES DIANA TEAM COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Read the form below carefully: the judges will base their decision on what you reveal in this form. All the winners who take part in the marathon on April 26 will be asked to sign a pledge form relating to their commitment to raise funds for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and to remit such funds by May 31, 1998. Our entry forms for the chance to win a place in the Diana Team should reach the following address by January 9, 1998: *The Times* Diana Team, Flora London Marathon, PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY. Judging will take place on January 14 and the winners will be informed by telephone by January 19.

Title.............................. **Initials** ....

Surname ....

Address ....

....

....

Day tel ....

Eve tel ....

Age .... **Female** ☐ **Male** ☐

Occupation ....

Which category do you wish to enter?

Men ☐ **Women** ☐

Do you suffer from any illness/es?

....

Have you been in hospital for an operation?
If yes, state what and when

....

....

Have you, a relative or friend, ever met Princess Diana? If yes, describe the occasion

....

....

....

Have you, a relative or friend, any connection with any of the Diana, Princess of Wales, charities, or a special reason for wanting to be in the Diana team? Describe your connection

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

Have you ever competed in a marathon before?

....

How much money did you raise?

....

For which organisation/s?

....

....

Have you raised funds for any organisation/s before?

....

Describe how much you raised and how you did it

....

....

....

....

Do you have any outstanding achievements of which you are proud? Tell us about them

....

....

....

....

What are your hobbies?

....

....

State, in not more than 50 words, why you deserve a place in this year's marathon

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

Please send the completed entry form to:
***The Times*/Diana Team, London Marathon,**
PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY

CHANGING TIMES

Equities lower after late sell-off

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
584	407½	Allied Domecq	510	- 1	4.8	13.1
626	382½	Bulmer (HP)	390		4.8	11.9
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	41½		10.2	14.5
639½	434	Diageo	556	- 1	3.2	17.0
1040	840	Glenmorangie A	860		2.0	30.6
380	280	Highland Distil	290	- 7	3.8	13.4
336	165	Matthew Clark	166½	- 1	15.5	5.2
107¼	49½	Marydown W	51½	- 2	7.5	
2009¾	1368¾	SA Brewstest	1459¾	- 6¼	2.5	..

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918¼	ABN-AMRO	1175	- 18¾	2.7	17.0
1200	710	Abbey Nt	1070	+ 1	3.2	17.5
855	532½	Alliance & Leic	790	- 12	2.6	18.7
606	328½	Allied Irish	580½	+ 2	3.2	16.5
516¼	363½	Aus New Z	378½	- 6	5.4	
4953¾	2875	Bank America†	4750	- 71¼		
606	291½	Bank Scotland	550	- 15	2.0	15.2
1800	978½	Barclays	1585	- 25	2.6	15.1
[illegible]	517½	Bk of Ireland	886	+ 7	2.4	19.4
6959¾	6006½	Citicorp	7362½	- 168¾		
1759¾	1268¾	Commerzbk	1637½		2.8	...
862½	328½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	338½	- 18¾	1.2	69.6
4593¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	4153¾		1.5	..
1300	759¾	Espirito Santo	1168¾		3.1	
947½	198	Fuji Bank Y	218¼	+ 20¾	1.8	43.0
2369½	1272½	HSBC	1510	- 15	3.8	12.2
2258½	1226	HSBC HK	1445	- 8	4.0	11.7
783	507	Halifax	758	- 15	2.4	25.5
645	483½	Irish Perm	635		2.4	17.6
860½	424	Lloyds TSB	748	- 13	2.4	21.8
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	804¾	- 6¼	4.7	
1081	663½	Nat West	995	- 18	3.8	15.7
580½	449	Northern Rock	580½	+ 2½	1.9	22.9
790	508	Royl Bk Scott	744	- 11	3.6	14.6
1033½	592½	Stand Chart	652	- 7	3.0	11.4
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	
403½	315½	Westpac	379	+ ¼	3.7	
373½	267½	Woolwich	315	- 10	3.1	18.7

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
971½	695	Bass†	905½	- 9½	3.8	16.3
68¼	43½	Brit Re the Bdr	54½	+ ½	4.4	16.1
205	132½	Burtonwd Brw	150½	..	5.9	13.3
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	135		2.3	21.0
768½	575½	Compass Gp	723	- 1	1.7	24.9
305	250	Eldridge P 'A'	289½		2.7	
266½	221	Enterprise Inns†	246½		3.8	
455	412	Fuller Sm 'A'†	425		3.1	13.7
596	310	Greenalls Grp	432½	+ ½	4.9	10.6
770	610	Greene King†	732½	+ 4½	2.9	15.0
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	197½		4.0	20.6
293½	218½	Groupe Chez Ger	281½		1.4	22.7
298½	213½	Hardy Hansn	229	+ ½	6.4	
2350	2075	Hall J	2125		3.5	11.9
78	56	Inn Business	64	+ ½	3.2	10.2
357	293	Mansfield	307½	+ 1½	3.0	12.5
315½	252	Merton Tamp†	267		3.9	9.5
615	440	Morland†	440		3.7	

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
660	530	Brammer	580½		3.5	14.0
27	10½	Bridgend Grp	11½		2.2	52.5
119½	94½	Brit Fittings	95	...	5.9	7.6
360	300	Caffyns†	342		4.8	7.9
225	162½	Car Group†	188½	- 1	3.1	17.8
172½	117½	Cawdale	138	+ 3	3.4	8.0
100	61½	Charles Sidney	87½	...	4.5	12.5
59½	42	Cook (DC)	43½		7.1	8.1
121	90½	Dag Motors	97½	.	10.4	6.3
134½	102½	Dawsons El	105½	...	3.3	9.7
400	215	Diplomat	227½	- 1	8.1	9.1
502½	387½	Electrocomponents†	449	- 4	2.3	24.2
226½	117½	Eurodis Elec	152½		4.2	29.8
105	76½	European Mtr	94	..	7.8	7.3
300	213	Evans Halshaw	290		7.1	
55½	39½	Fife Indmar	45½	.	9.3	7.4
397½	275	Firstal Grp	354½	..	2.7	15.7
34½	19½	Gardiner	21½		5.5	7.9
79¼	57½	Glencheveron	67½		2.8	11.0
110	82½	Gowrings	90		4.3	15.0
15½	11	HR Owen	13½	...	6.7	9.1
103	30½	Hamlet#	22½			2.1
374	284½	Headlam	327½		2.3	19.8
172	145	Holders Tech	150		5.4	12.2
240½	66½	ISA Intl	68½	+ 1	5.5	5.3
308½	155½	Inchcape†	160½		7.6	10.6
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	57½		5.4	7.4
343½	214½	Kwik-Fit	342½	+ 2½	2.1	18.8
480½	316½	Lex Service	452	..	4.5	13.6
122	97	Lookers	108		9.3	7.7
9	4½	Middlesex	5	+ ¼	2.5	12.2
41½	10½	Midstates	19		3.2	
472	180	Nortairt	273	..	4.0	11.0
233½	114½	Northamber†	233½		1.4	16.3
352½	285½	Partco	301		3.4	16.0
334½	254½	Pendragon	265½		4.8	11.7
223½	172½	Perry Gp	179½		6.4	7.9
751	403½	Premier Farnell	415	...	3.8	15.4
144½	116	Quicks Group	120	.	7.8	8.0
357	285	REA	285		1.8	63.0
2½	1¼	Reece	1¼	.	.	41.8
26	9½	Ronson	11½	.		
4	1½	Ross Gp	3½	.		
109½	78½	Ryland	100	- 1½	5.1	9.4
38	24	SEP Ind	28	.	5.7	.
92½	25	Salifax	26		5.8	..
415½	168	Time Products†	171½	+ 1½	9.0	7.1
347	155½	Trust Motor Grp†	156½	- 1	9.0	6.9
408	228	UNIECO	400		1.8	21.2
93½	58	United Ocean Gp	88	..	0.5	19.6
352½	237½	Vardy (Reg)	245	.	4.0	11.4
685	498½	WF Elect	650		2.9	22.3
41	25½	Wilshaw†	40		2.7	10.8
172½	111½	Wyko	146½	.	2.6	18.3
159½	119½	Young (H)	150		3.9	10.4

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	330		2.0	16.9
328	232	Ascot Hldgs	249	.	2.6	10.9
917	509	Broken Hill	550½	- 2½	3.6	15.3
289	174	BTR	180		6.1	6.3
624	462	BAT†	537	+ 7	6.1	13.3
60½	41	Beverley Inv	42½	+ ½	11.1	7.0
266	182	Cookson	195	+ 1	6.1	12.3
240½	197½	Cosalt†	234½	.	6.0	9.3
415	255½	DCC†	414		2.4	15.4
364	243½	Gallaher	331½	- 2½	7.3	10.3
140½	101½	Hanson Cslid	134	+ ½	8.2	15.0
687½	338½	Hutch Whamp	361½	+ ½	3.2	22.3

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1333½	887	Siebe	1110	- 2	1.4	19.7
227½	105½	Six Hundred†	117½	...	5.3	8.3
993½	708½	Smiths Inds	830	- 10	2.7	19.5
767	543	Spirax-Sarco	571	...	3.1	14.8
303½	238½	Sterling Ind	383	+ 1	4.8	9.5
698½	430	TI	470	+ 3	3.7	15.0
120½	88½	Tinsley (E)	100		7.9	9.0
120½	67½	[illegible]	82½	...	3.7	11.3
273½	144½	Triplex Lloyd†	272½	.	3.3	18.4
378	251½	Ultra Elect	366		2.2	21.3
77¼	48½	Utd Inds	54½		5.7	14.0
273½	169½	Vickers	237½		3.8	14.8
10½	6½	Waters Grp	7¼			
712½	505	Vitec	631½		2.5	13.0
852	742	Vosper Thornyt	805		4.2	12.4
350	213½	Wagon Ind	294½		5.2	12.8
304½	203½	Weir	255½	+ 1	4.0	12.4
259½	157½	Wellington Hdg	159	..	6.4	9.2
48½	23	Wellman	48½		3.6	13.5
71½	45½	Wescol	65		2.3	18.6
825	525	Whatman	752½	- 7½	2.3	22.0
65½	30½	Widney	45	...	10.3	13.3

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
154	97	Adwest	149½	.	5.6	12.1
197	156	Airflow Streaml	160	...	6.2	11.5
757	565	Avon Rubber†	622½		3.6	
344	227½	Bostrom	333½	.	2.7	16.7
140	96	Britax	134½	.	3.2	17.5
339½	238½	Dennis	313½		3.7	14.3
315½	219½	First Tech	279½		1.6	22.0
1480	907	GKN	1233	- 14	2.8	...
4398¾	3217½	General Mtr	3563¾	- 16¾	3.4	
583½	357	Hestel	401	+ 2½	4.8	9.6
2323¾	1540¼	Honda Motor	2146¼	+ 41½	0.4	..
502	312½	Laird†	443½	- 2	3.2	
345	180	LucasVarity†	213	..	2.3	13.6
206	131	Mayflower	177		1.7	25.1

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
528½	426½	Electra Inv†	529½	+ ¼	2.3	..
167½	143	Eng & Scot	157½	- ½	2.4	41.0
422	307½	European Assel	371		1.3	..
113½	52	Fidelity Asian Val	62½	- ¾	...	
293½	216½	Fidelity Euro Val	271½	+ ½	0.2	..
50	24	Fidelity Jap Val	24½	..		
138½	119½	Fidelity Spec Val	133		1.2	86.4
232½	205½	Finsbury 'A'	224½	...	2.2	61.2
191½	146½	Finsbury Gwth	173		2.5	48.5
214	149½	Five Arr Chile	149½	...	1.6	78.1
31½	7½	Five Arr Wts	8			
574½	375½	Fleming Amer	532	- 4	0.7	..
82½	53	Fleming Asian	53½	- ¼		
19½	7¼	Fleming Asian Wts	8½	+ ¼	...	
106½	49½	Fleming Chinese	56½			
40	13½	Fleming Ch Wts	18½			
408	280½	Fleming Claver	393½	- ½	2.1	51.4
507½	381	Fleming Cont	459	- ½	1.1	...
158	108½	Fleming Em Mkts	110½	..	0.5	...
276	227½	Fleming Entp	273½	..	2.4	40.7
437	382½	Fleming Fledg	383		0.3	..
101½	78	Fleming Inc Cap	101½		7.0	19.3
110½	103	Fleming Ing Inct	107½		11.0	11.1
258	117	Fleming Ing Cap	247½		...	
63	39½	Fleming Indian	42		...	
22	5	Fleming In Wts	9½			
214½	128½	Fleming Japan	133½			
407½	335½	Fleming Merc	377	- ½	3.0	34.2
114½	73½	Fleming Nat Res	73½	..	0.9	
469	321½	Fleming Overs	351½	- 1½	1.6	76.8
160½	137½	Fleming Smllr Co	148		3.8	
185½	147½	Foreign & Col	166½	- ½	1.7	57.2
106½	90½	F&C Inc Gwth†	99½		4.5	27.7
130½	85	F&C Eng Mkts	101			
184	123	F&C Enterprise	184	..	1.6	61.6
384½	295½	F&C Eurotst	358½	- ½	0.4	
169	133½	F&C German	152½		0.5	
176	104	F&C Pacific	106½	.	2.2	50.8
149½	131½	F&C PEP†	146½		3.9	
185½	166½	F&C Smaller†	177¼		1.9	51.8
166½	122½	F&C US Smlr	150	- 1½		
62½	52	Framlin Inc	61½	...	10.7	11.4
110½	60½	Framlin Cap	107½		...	...

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
502	339½	Murray Smllr†	345	- ½	2.2	44.6
415	386	Murray Vent	400		4.7	24.2
288	234	Natural Ent	280½	- ½	2.2	43.2
6½	5	Newmarket	5½			
465½	353½	O'seas Inv Tst	439	- 2½	1.1	..
261	156½	O'seas Wts	252			
126	48½	Pacific Assets	51½	.	1.0	75.3
87	65½	Perpetual Euro	78½	- ¼	0.7	...
138	98	Perp Inc Gth	122½	- ½	3.9	36.9
58	28	Perpetual Jap	28½	...		
386½	292½	Perpt Uk Sm Co	324		3.7	28.0
£177½	£128½	Personal Assets	£168	..	1.7	...
137½	113½	Pacific Inc	129		4.1	27.7
298½	228	RIT Cap Ptnr	272	- ½	0.8	...
569½	475½	Robeco	540½	..	2.0	..
577¼	497	Rolinco	548½		1.0	..
108½	48	Schrod Asia Pac	50½	- ½	1.3	..
98½	59	Schrod Emg Cot	67½			
148½	117½	Schrod Inc Gwth†	142	+ 1	4.0	25.6
75½	48½	Schrod Jap Gwth	48½		...	
512½	139½	Schrod Korea	134½	...	...	...
50½	19½	Schrod Split Cap	43½			
119½	102½	Schrod Split Inct	118¼		6.9	14.5
154½	142½	Schrod Split Zero	154¼			
153½	126½	Schrod UK Gwth	140½	+ ½	3.1	37.5
201½	146½	Schrod Vent Intl	168½	- 1	1.3	
345	273½	Scot	310½	- 1	2.6	..
200½	168½	Scot American†	185½	- ¼	3.6	37.1
311½	117½	Scot Asian	119½			
138	98½	Scot Eastern	113	- ½	2.1	44.8
355½	275½	Scot Mtge	319	- ½	2.0	46.8
102	93	Scot Natl Tst†	100½	...	10.2	10.5
130	111½	Scot Value†	122½	- ½	2.0	25.6
2350	1980	Second Alliance	2185	- 5	2.9	40.9
125	95½	Secs Tst of Scot	112½		4.2	31.2
158½	133½	Shires Smlr†	158	..	4.9	25.1
138½	121½	Smaller Coc	134		3.0	40.2
385	344½	St Andrew Inv	353½	+ ½	3.4	36.7
485½	377½	Temple Bar	477	- ½	4.3	27.2
87½	72½	Throgmorton	83½	- ¾	3.4	40.0
169½	107½	Topical Eng Mkt	112½	- ½	1.2	65.6
191	133	TR Euro Growth	168½		0.7	..

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
232½	187½	GGT Group	200		3.9	..
232½	167½	GWR Grp†	168½	- 1	2.1	31.8
392½	285½	[illegible]	345	..	2.4	13.2
37½	24½	Goodwood	33½	+ ½	1.5	17.3
345	254	HIT Entert	280		0.2	43.1
287½	207½	Haynes Pub	265	..	5.0	11.8
22½	6½	Highbury Hse	8½	...		
230	180	Hodder H'line	207		4.9	14.1
485	231	Home Counts	482½	+ 5	1.5	48.9
415½	295	IBC	394½	...	3.1	13.8
28½	18½	Incepta	19½		...	11.7
407½	297½	Independent	342½	..	2.4	23.5
145	95	Infoeurope	137½	+ 2½	4.3	10.1
229½	172½	Johnston Press	205		1.6	18.8
45	25	Lopex	29½	...	3.8	7.9
327½	272½	Maiden	306		2.3	18.7
45½	25½	MediaKey	27½	....	5.2	10.5
1265	950	Metal Bulletin	1020		2.6	23.1
217½	129½	Midland Ind	211		2.7	21.8
226½	182½	Mirror Gp	194	- 1	3.8	13.2
770	551½	More Grp	762½		2.5	18.6
342½	259½	News Corp	325½	- ¼	0.4	14.6
306½	216½	News Corp Prd	288½	+ ¼	1.0	...
264½	225	Newsquest	262½	...	2.8	16.2
47½	4½	On Demand Inf	5½			
37½	14½	Osprey Comms	15		...	20.8
884½	655	Pearson	775	+ 1	3.0	53.8
83	23½	Photobit	52		...	
867½	750	Portsmth Sundt	867½	...	2.2	17.8
258½	65½	Quarto	78½		14.2	3.2
646	509½	Reed Int	594	- 10	2.9	21.1
781	555½	Reuters	649	+ 13	2.3	21.6
114½	108½	Saatchi	109½	+ ½	1.4	29.6
710	542½	Scot Med	697½	..	3.7	16.8
413½	336	Scot Radio	381½	..	3.1	...
62½	39½	Shandwick	40½	+ 1	4.4	7.3
36	10	Sleepy Kids	13	...	0.8	...
521	390	Southnews†	454	...	2.3	15.8
30½	14½	Sterling Pub	17½		...	3.9
81	42½	Taylor Nelson	80½	...	1.4	30.4
220	178	Television Cp	205		2.0	15.3
1703¾	1168¾	Thomson Corp	1588¾	+ 12¾	2.9	33.1
507	416½	Trinity Intl	465½		3.3	16.2
267	132½	Ulster TV	238½	- 1	2.8	23.5

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
636	522½	Secure Tst	610		4.3	13.3
182½	127½	Singer & Fried	138½	..	4.4	10.9
54½	29½	Towry Law	51	..		
5	1¼	Trio Hldgs	4½			
106½	65	Union	72½		1.1	28.6
54	30½	Versailles Gp	47½		4.5	16.8
402½	310	Wesmust	400	..		

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
289	96	Brit Biotech	103	..		
1115	610	Cantab Pharms	620	- 5	...	
673	247½	Celltech	397½			
443½	215	Chiroscience	223½	+ 6		
192	167½	Cortecs	181	+ 3½	2.9	29.3
1490	885½	Glaxo Wellc	1425			
245	75½	ML Laboratories	75½	- 5		
330½	162½	Medeva	162½	- 1	3.6	30.4
403	228½	Peptide Thera	265½	..	...	
202½	177½	Pharmagene	194½			
92	24½	Proteus Intl	44	...		
84	58	Ransom (Wm)	70	...	4.6	14.5
737½	237½	Scotia	280	..		
287½	216	Shire Pharms	286	+ 2½		
95	45	SkyePharma	48½			
662	394½	SmithKline†	611	- 1	1.7	30.4
392	180	Therap Antl Inc	221½			
707½	367½	Vanguard	420	+ 2½	...	
435	160	Xenova	160	- 5		
2291	1585½	Zeneca	2067	- 11	2.2	27.5

PRINTING & PAPER

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	86	AG Holdings†	87	...	9.0	11.3
782	570	API	590		2.6	
77½	47½	App Holo	76	+ 1		
208	151	Arjo Wiggins	155	+ 1	5.8	10.5
24	17½	Bath Press	21½	..	3.2	8.9
450½	369½	Bemrose	434½	.	4.5	12.8
229½	130	Bogden	162½		2.0	10.6
3490¾	2178½	Bowater Inc	2618¾	+ 6¼	..	
326½	248½	Bowater Ind	361½	- 7½	1.5	18.1
745	439	Br Polythene	432½		5.3	10.3
24½	10½	Br Thornton	19	..		
148	49	Britton Grp	138½	.	3.1	15.6
276½	188	Bunzl†	235½	+ ½	3.2	14.5
233½	125	Capital Inds	128½	- 1½	5.7	10.8
388½	256½	Cropper (James)†	261½	..	2.3	9.4
673½	323	De La Rue†	397½	- ½	7.5	18.4
267½	195½	Dolphin Pack	252½		3.7	14.6
75½	35½	Fairway Group	61½	+ 21	8.1	19.0
238	80	Ferguson Intl	90	..	18.4	6.8
185½	120½	Filofax	149½	..	3.3	10.3
134	62½	Inveresk	72½	- 1	10.0	7.4
248¾	177½	Jarvis Porter†	208½	..	4.5	12.2
452	205	Low & Bonar	317½	- 6½	5.9	9.5
128½	70	MY Holdings†	75		4.5	10.2
198½	147½	Macfarlane	168½	- 1½	3.1	15.2
1037½	488½	Photobition	1037½	+ 30	0.9	34.3
178½	142½	Plysu	157		6.7	11.3
33	19½	Porter Chadburn†	26½	- ½	3.8	8.5
371	222½	REXAM	285	..	6.0	18.1
567½	311	St Ives Gp	515	- 5	2.8	15.8
665½	299½	Sappi	299½	..	2.9	...
6	0¼	Security & General	3½	..		

SUPPORT SERVICES

TRAVEL

"What's the best way to travel on the Internet?"

There's nothing pedestrian about LineOne. It gives you fast and easy access to the Internet, and the home page directs you straight to the subject you're interested in. If you want to explore the real world as well as the cyberworld, the Travel zone gives you invaluable advice and information on where to stay. Check in soon.

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210.

www. .net

It's what you want to know

After your free trial LineOne is available from as little as £4.95 per month.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
115⅝	113⅝	Treas 4½% 1998	116⅛		3.99	6.86
102¼	100⅝	Exch 9¾% 1998	100⅝	- ⅛	9.74	6.50
101⅛	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100⅝	...	7.25	7.20
110¼	102⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	102⅝	- ⅛	13.64	6.89
115⅛	106⅜	Treas 15½% 1998	106⅛	- ⅛	14.62	6.99
109⅝	104⅝	Exch 12% 1998	104⅝	- ⅛	11.52	7.03
105⅛	102¼	Treas 9½% 1999	102⅞		9.27	6.94
111⅞	106¾	Exch 12¼% 1999	106⅞	- ⅛	11.53	6.88
107¾	104½	Treas 10½% 1999	104⅞	- ⅛	10.02	6.80
99⅜	96⅛	Treas 6% 1999	98⅛	.	6.07	6.74
107¼	103⅝	Conv 10¼% 1999	106⅝	- ⅛	9.57	6.79
106½	102⅜	Conv 9% 2000	104⅛	...	8.61	6.74
103⅛	100⅛	Treas 8% 2000	103⅝		7.72	6.61
104⅝	102⅛	Treas 8½% 2000	103⅝		8.22	6.69
117⅞	113½	Treas 13% 2000	114⅛	- ⅛	11.37	6.72
112⅛	98⅞	Treas 10% 2001	109⅝	- ⅛	9.15	6.67
101⅛	98⅛	Treas 7% 2001	101⅛	+ ⅛	6.90	6.56

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
102⅞	97⅝	Treas 7% 2002	102⅛	+ ⅛	6.86	6.45
112¼	105½	Treas 9¾% 2002	112⅝	- ⅛	8.65	6.52
107⅞	102⅛	Treas 8% 2003	107⅛	+ ⅛	7.46	6.41
117½	111⅛	Treas 10% 2003	116⅛	...	8.57	6.44
115⅝	112⅛	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113⅝	- ⅛	10.11	6.65
90⅞	82⅛	Fund 3½% 1999-04	90⅞	+ ⅛	3.86	5.21
115⅝	109⅛	Conv 9½% 2004	117⅛	+ ⅛	8.11	6.35
102⅞	96½	Treas 6¾% 2004	102⅛	+ ⅛	6.60	6.33
114¼	106⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	113⅛	+ ⅛	7.48	6.28
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	118⅛	+ ⅛	8.04	6.29
130⅛	124⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129⅝		9.67	6.45
108⅞	98⅝	Treas 7½% 2006	108⅛	+ ⅛	6.92	6.25
117⅞	99⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	109⅝	+ ⅛	7.07	6.29
116⅛	100⅝	Treas 8% 2002-06	105⅝		7.56	6.56
123⅝	115⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122⅝	+ ⅛	9.61	6.49
115⅛	105⅛	Treas 8½% 2007	115⅝	+ ⅛	7.34	6.27
107⅛	95⅛	Treas 7¼% 2007	107⅛	+ ⅛	6.73	6.19
122⅝	108⅝	Treas 9% 2008	122⅝	+ ⅛	7.37	6.16
114⅛	101	Treas 8% 2009	114⅛	+ ⅛	6.97	6.27
100⅝	86⅛	Treas 6¼% 2010	100⅝	+ ⅛	6.24	6.23
124⅝	109⅛	Conv 9% 2011	124⅝	+ ⅛	7.20	6.24
126⅛	109⅝	Treas 9% 2012	126⅛	+ ⅛	7.14	6.25
93⅝	80⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	93⅝	+ ⅛	5.86	6.13
113½	98⅝	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	113½	+ ⅛	6.83	6.31

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
117⅝	100⅝	Treas 8% 2013	117⅝	+ ⅛	6.82	6.25
119⅝	101⅛	Treas 8% 2015	119⅝	+ ⅛	6.70	6.20
128⅝	109⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	128⅝	+ ⅛	6.82	6.23
122⅝	101⅛	Tr 8% 2021	122⅝	+ ⅛	6.53	6.17

UNDATED

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
56	43⅝	War Ln 3½%	56	+ ⅛	6.25	...
39	30⅛	Treas 2½%	39	+ ⅛	6.41	...
61⅞	45⅝	Consols 4%	61⅞	+ ⅛	6.51	...

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	5%	3%
194⅝	184⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	194⅝	+ ⅛	3.08	3.31
192⅞	180⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2003	192⅝	+ ⅛	2.99	3.20
124⅛	117⅛	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	124⅛	+ ⅛	2.96	3.15
206⅝	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	206⅝	+ ⅛	2.99	3.13
188⅞	170⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2009	187⅞	- ⅛	3.02	3.14
197⅞	176⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2011	197⅛	+ ⅛	2.98	3.07
184⅛	148⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	183⅝	+ ⅛	2.98	3.08
172⅛	153⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	170⅝	+ ⅛	2.98	3.06
172⅞	147⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2020	171⅝	+ ⅛	3.00	3.07
145⅞	122⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2024	144⅝	+ ⅛	3.00	3.05
142⅛	119⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	141⅛	+ ⅛	2.99	3.04

WATER

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
140½	101½	Hyder Cn Pf	120		8.5	..
680	532½	Mid Kent Hldgst	662½		5.9	9.9
1050	853	Severn Trent	860	- 15	4.8	10.7
3290	2755	South Staffst	3277½		3.6	13.5
938½	596½	South West	924		5.2	11.7
970	593¾	Thames	868½	- 11½	5.1	9.8
843	605½	Utd Utilities†	765	- 10	6.3	12.4
528½	344½	Wessex	500	+ ½	4.8	9.5
500½	325	Yorkshire†	465	- ½	5.3	9.1

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
280	64½	Abacus Recruit	260	+ 26		
217	170	Cale Ins▼	207		0.7	30.1
282½	180	Dawson Hdgs	220		1.6	15.7
51½	28½	Freepages	32½	- ½	2.7	21.2
98½	63½	Megalomedia	64½			
65	22½	Memory Corp	29½		0.4	30.6
580	280	Prism Rail	379			
1285	732½	Ranco Eqy	840	.	1.6	.
783	619½	Southern News	742½	+ 1½	0.1	
84½	65½	Southern Vectis	84½		3.4	19.7
60½	16½	Trocadero†	17½	...	3.1	17.6

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

هكذا من الأصل

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Index holds above 5,000 in face of late selling

BRITISH STEEL looks like ending the year on a flat note after falling a further 1p to yet another new low of 128p during the shortened trading session on Christmas Eve. Volume was on the low side, with just 255,000 shares changing hands but the group's decline from a peak of 190¼p this year will be worrying to brokers. The problems facing one of Europe's biggest steel producers were highlighted on Tuesday by the latest trade figures. The strong pound is making it uncompetitive against major rivals and affecting profits. Industry sources claim that the steel industry has lost more than £1 billion in orders during the past year.

London opened lower, reflecting the 127-point fall by the Dow Jones industrial average overnight. But it managed to hold above 5,000 despite a late wave of selling orders that left the FTSE 100 index 35.9 points down at 5,013.9 by the close. Turnover was the lowest of the year with just 241 million shares traded.

Cadbury Schweppes continued to lose ground, ending 7½p lower at 601p amid concern about increased competition. This follows Coca-Cola's acquisition of Orangina, which brings it into direct competition with Cadbury's Sunkist.

Blue Circle Industries rose 6p to 338p in celebration of regaining its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies. BCI had been kicked out earlier in the week as part of the usual quarterly reshuffle, along with **RMC**, down 4p at 848p, and **TI Group**, 3p better at 470p.

One of the companies that replaced them was **Mercury Asset Management**, all-square at £16.93, just hours before its £3.1 billion agreed bid from Merrill Lynch went unconditional.

The biggest turkey award of the pre-Christmas trading session went to **Danka Business Systems**, down 26p, or almost 10½ per cent, to 222½p. The fall came after a party of shareholders filed a lawsuit against the company alleging it issued misleading statements about the integration of Eastman Kodak's office imaging division into its operations. Earlier this month Danka issued a profits warning saying revenues would be £30 million lower than expected.

Reports this week that demand for computer games had been so great that some branches of **Dixons** were running out of stock may also be good news for **The Electronic Boutique**, another major retailer of computer games. Its shares firmed ¾p to 46p.

One company that will be glad to see the back of 1997 is **First Information**, which dropped a further ¼p to 2¾p after the directors admitted that the company's viability remained uncertain. They are now taking a long, hard look at its future.

ILP Group was 3p easier at 32½p after reporting that trading during 1997 was unlikely to live up to market expectations. The Irish-based company, which specialises in protective packaging, said it was continuing to review approaches that might lead to an offer.

Walker Greenbank firmed 2½p to 45p as one director took advantage of the recent weakness in the price to snap up more shares in the company. Andrew Connolly has bought 150,000 shares at 44p. Only last week he bought 400,000 shares at 42p. This takes his total holding to 795,212, or 0.6 per cent.

News of a bid approach lifted **Fairway** 21p to 61½p. The printer said it was in talks that may lead to a recommended offer being made. At this level the group carries a price tag of £22.3 million.

Further reassurances that bid talks were continuing, combined with a doubling of pre-tax profits to £7.2 million, lifted **Faber Prest** 20p to 377½p.

News of stakebuilding boosted **Innovative Technology** 14p to 108½p. Credit Suisse First Boston now holds 2.42 million shares, or 6.55 per cent.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Mounting hopes that interest rates may have peaked pushed bond prices higher in thin trading. Tuesday's trade figures provided further evidence that the economy has slowed sufficiently to deter the Bank of England from pushing rates higher. But dealers emphasised it may be too early to talk in terms of interest rate cuts.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose five ticks to £122 1/16. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021 closed £¼ better at £122½, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was unchanged at £102 3/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 31.64 points at 7,660.13 on Christmas Eve, amid concern about Asia's financial problems.

Tough come top in Fortune's best boss league

BY PAUL DURMAN

MICROSOFT and Goldman Sachs, regarded as two of the most demanding of American employers, have scored highly in *Fortune* magazine's list of the 100 best employers in the United States.

Microsoft has attracted criticism for the devotion it demands from its software developers, who are allegedly expected to eat, breathe and sleep Bill Gates, the company's founder. Goldman Sachs is supposedly the apotheosis of the hard-driving American investment bank, routinely requiring long hours and the surrender of any personal life in the pursuit of profit.

Yet Microsoft makes it to eighth position in the *Fortune* list, while Goldman Sachs comes in at 12th. The top 100 is headed by Southwest Airlines, based in Dallas, whose chief executive, Herb Kelleher, is known for arm-wrestling, drinking large quantities of Wild Turkey whiskey and rapping in music videos.

Second came Kingston Technology, a manufacturer of computer memory devices that last year paid year-end bonuses averaging $75,000 per employee. Third was SAS Institute, the world's largest privately-owned software company, which offers onsite child care and an award-winning cafeteria complete with pianist.

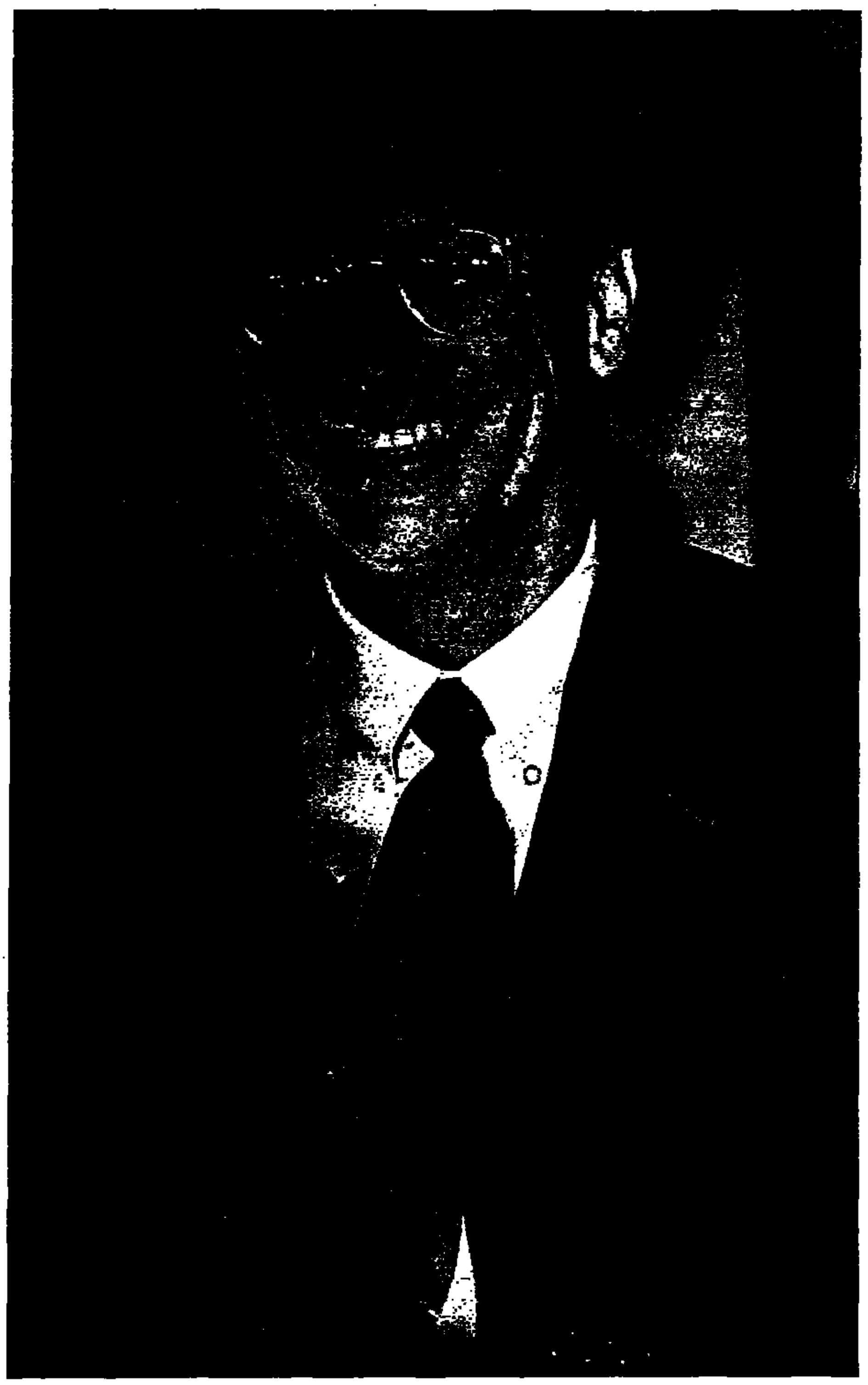
The North Carolina operation of Glaxo Wellcome was the only listed British-owned company, at 100. The drugs company's American benefits package includes two onsite childcare centres, seven fitness centres and six medical clinics.

Fortune suggests the best employers display three recurring traits: inspiring leadership, "knockout" facilities in the working environment, and a sense of purpose. Mr Gates's awesome reputation in the computer industry is widely recognised as important for his employees' commitment to their work.

With unemployment in the US at a 25-year low, companies go to great lengths to hang on to the best staff. Some employers offer masseurs, dry cleaning and a personal concierge service.

According to *Fortune*, shares in the publicly traded companies in its list have substantially outstripped the stock market as a whole, with annual returns averaging 27.5 per cent over the past five years, against 17.3 per cent for the Russell 3000 index.

However, as the magazine recognises, it is not clear whether happy employees make companies successful, or if successful companies make employees happy. Many of the best-performing of the good employers — including Microsoft, Intel, Compaq and Cisco Systems — are information technology companies that have richly rewarded their employees with stock options.



Bill Gates of Microsoft, which is ranked eighth in *Fortune's* corporate hierarchy

Banks and Bifu proclaim victory in day of strikes

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BANKS and trade unions both claimed victory after a one-day strike on Christmas Eve in a series of disputes about pay and working hours.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu), which represents most bank employees, said that thousands of its members had stopped work for the day, causing widespread disruption at the branches of four high-street banks.

Staff at Midland and the Royal Bank of Scotland staged a walkout after the two banks tried to force them to work on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, traditionally a holiday for bank employees.

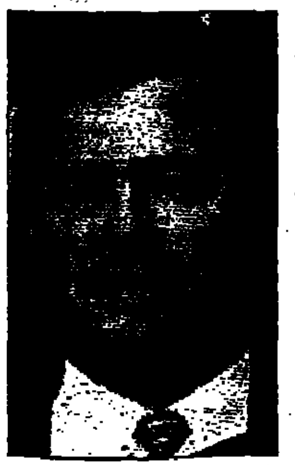
On the same day, staff at Clydesdale and Yorkshire banks initiated industrial action in a dispute over the introduction of performance-related pay, which they claim has led to lower-than-inflation pay increases.

Ed Sweeney, director-general of Bifu, said: "A measure of the success is that many of those who did turn up for work only did so after they had been promised extra time off locally." He urged Midland Bank to reach a national agreement with the unions.

Midland said that the impact of the strike had been minimal, with only one branch closure at Runcorn in Cheshire. Four other branches were run on skeleton crews, but at the remainder of its 1,750 branches it was business as usual.

Clydesdale and Yorkshire banks, both subsidiaries of National Australia Bank, said that all their branches opened for business. Both banks emphasised that few staff had supported the ballot for strike action in the first place.

The Clydesdale added that only 12 per cent of staff had actually gone on strike.



Sweeney: plea to Midland

Post Office renews call for more freedom

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE POST Office has stepped up its calls for greater commercial freedom after making pre-tax profits of £329 million.

It complained that the profits for the half-year to September 30 will largely go to meet the Treasury's cash demand and on corporation tax. A spokesman said: "The driving force behind these results is the need to generate £313 million this financial year to pay the Government's external financing limit demand. This cash demand, more than £1 million every working day, has to be funded out of the Post Office's post-tax profit."

The Department of Trade and Industry is looking at giving more commercial freedom to the Post Office but no date has been set for Ian McCartney, the Industry Minister, to report on the review.

The Post Office told the Trade and Industry Select Committee recently that it needed more ways to operate as a business — such as through joint ventures. The committee is expected to report early in the new year.

The half-year pre-tax profit is up by 43 per cent on the previous year, with the rise driven by the increase in postage rates in July 1996. Royal Mail delivered £303 million of the profits, while Post Office Counters contributed £7 million. Losses at ParcelForce Worldwide increased from £14 million to £17 million.

Shire buys world rights to drug for $25m

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHIRE Pharmaceuticals is to pay $25 million (£15 million) to acquire the worldwide rights to Carbatrol, the epilepsy drug that was about to go on sale through Elan Corporation of Ireland.

Carbatrol is a controlled-release version of a Novartis anti-convulsant that was developed by Pharmavene, the US drug delivery specialist that Shire bought in a $105 million deal last March. Athena Neurosciences, part of Elan, had licensed-in the marketing rights to Carbatrol only nine months earlier in July 1996.

Athena has agreed to co-promote the drug to US neurologists for two years. Carbatrol received its marketing go-ahead from the US Food and Drug Administration in early October.

Rolf Stahel, Shire's chief executive, said: "Carbatrol will be the first example of a product conceived, developed, registered and marketed by Shire."

Shire will fund its purchase with $2 million of cash, $9 million of new shares and $14 million of zero coupon unsecured loan notes.

Unlike the biotechnology companies with which it is commonly grouped, Shire has had a good year on the stock market. Its two large acquisitions have helped to lift its share price from around 200p to 286p.

Limelight in talks to sell Portland Glass

BY FRASER NELSON

LIMELIGHT, the troubled kitchens and bathrooms company, is in talks to sell its Portland Glass division, one of its main assets, in an attempt to stave off the threat of a cash crisis.

The company, whose market value has crumbled from £200 million to £28 million in the 13 months since it floated, also said that its MKD fitted kitchen unit has seen a drop in like-for-like sales every month since June. The group was hit this year by a critical report about its sales practices on BBC TV's *Watchdog* programme.

Stephen Boler, the company's founder and non-executive director, has agreed to underwrite an overdraft to the company supplied by the Royal Bank of Scotland to finance the internal shake-up planned for the windows business.

Mr Boler, who now lives in South Africa, has a 17 per cent stake in the company, and has watched his shareholding lose 83 per cent of its value.

The company intends to focus on its kitchens division, which generates 60 per cent of group profits. MKD has been merged with Dolphin fitted bathrooms, with all operations now centred in Manchester.

The shares added one penny, to 34½p, on Christmas Eve.

Andrews Sykes chief takes £300,000 profit

BY JASON NISSÉ

ERIC HOOK, chief executive of Andrews Sykes, the Wolverhampton-based portable heating group, has awarded himself a £300,000 Christmas present by cashing in share options and selling them in the market.

The options over 50,000 shares — which were awarded to Mr Hook when he joined in May 1994 — were priced at just 112.2p each but he was able to sell them just before the stock market closed for the Christmas holiday at 710p each, pocketing a profit of £299,000. Mr Hook still holds options over another 270,000 shares.

Andrews Sykes has been one of the great recovery stories of the building materials sector. The group was close to collapse when a management team led by Jacques Murray, the Anglo-French rescue specialist, took control in 1993. Mr Hook was recruited shortly after Mr Murray took control and, in spite of Andrews Sykes shares falling to an all-time low of 50p shortly after he joined, he powered the group's recovery.

Andrews Sykes is now considered to be one of the most aggressive companies in its sector. It is sitting on a large cash pile and is said to be on the hunt for acquisitions to bolster the group.

WALL STREET

	Dec 24 close	Dec 23 close
AMP Inc	39¼	39¼
AMR Corp	123¼	123¼
AT & T	62⅞	61¹³⁄₁₆
Abbott Labs	64½	64¼
Advanced Micro	17¹⁵⁄₁₆	17¹³⁄₁₆
Aetna Life	67	67¼
Ahmanson (HF)	63⅞	64½
Air Prod & Chem	78¼	78⅜
AirTouch Comm	38⅝	38⅝
Albertson's	45¼	45¼
Alcan Aluminm	26¹¹⁄₁₆	27⅛
Allied Signal	39¼	39¼
Alum Co of Am	68¾	69¼
Amerada Hess	51½	51¼
AEP	51	51⅛
Amer Express	85¼	85¼
Amer Genl Corp	52¾	53⅛
Amer Home Pr	72¾	74⅛
Amer Intl	102⅝	104⅛
Amer Stores	20⅛	20¼
Amer Standard	37⅝	37⅝
Ameritech	81½	82¼
Amgen	52⅞	52¼
Amoco	83½	82½
Andrew Corp	22½	22⅞
Anheuser-Busch	41¹⁵⁄₁₆	42⅛
Apple Computer	13¼	12⅞
Archer Daniels	20⅞	20⅞
Armco	4⅞	4⅛
Armstrng Wrld	73½	72¼
Asarco	22¾	22
Atl Richfield	77½	76½
Atmel Corp	18⅞	18⅝
Auto Data Pro	58⅝	58½
Avery Dennison	42⅞	42¾
Avon Products	60	59⅞
Baker Hughes	41⅛	40⅞
Baltim Gas & El	32⅝	32⅝
Banc One	52⅛	53⅝
BankAmerica	69⅞	71
Bank of NY	54¾	56⅛
Bankers Tr NY	109⅞	112½
Barnett Banks	69⅝	70⅝
Bausch & Lomb	37⅞	38⅛
Baxter Intl	46⅝	47
Bectn Dicknsn	48½	49¼
Bell Atlantic	88¼	89⅞
BellSouth	56¼	56⅞
Black & Decker	38¼	38½
Block (H&R)	44	44⅞
Boeing	47¹⁵⁄₁₆	48
Boise Cascade	29⅞	28¼
Boston Scien	44½	44¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	89	90⅞
Browning Ferris	35¼	36⅞
Brunswick	28⅞	28⅞
Burlington Nthn	92½	93⅛
CMS Energy Corp	42¾	42⅞
CPC Intl	103⅞	109⅞
CSX	51⅞	52⅝
CBS Corp	27¼	27½
Campbell Soup	56½	57⅞
Carolina Pwr	41⅝	41½
Case Corp	58½	59⅞
Caterpillar	46⅞	47⅞
Central & SW	27	27¼
Champion Intl	43⅝	43⅝
Chase Manhat	104½	105⅞
Chevron Corp	75¼	74⅝
Chrysler	33¹¹⁄₁₆	33⅝
Chubb Corp	74½	75
Cigna Corp	166½	165⅝
Citicorp	120⅞	123
Clorox	74⅞	74¼
Coastal Corp	60½	59⅞
Coca Cola	64½	64¼
Coca Cola Ent	33⅛	33⅝
Colgate-Palm	68	68¼
Columbia Gas	77⅞	77⅞
ColumbiaHCA	27¼	27¾
Compaq Comp	53¾	54⅛
Comp Ass Intl	48⅝	49
Conagra	32¼	32⅞
Cons Edison	40¾	40¾
Cons Nat Gas	58½	58⅞
Cooper Inds	47⅝	47½
Corestates	78⅝	80
Corning Inc	36½	36⅛
C'wide Credit	41¼	41¹¹⁄₁₆
Crestar Finl	54⅞	56
Crown Cork	48¾	49¼
Dana Corp	43⅞	44
Dayton Hudson	61¼	61⅞
Deere	55	55⅛
Delta Air Lines	111½	112⅞
Deluxe Corp	34¼	34⅝
Digital Equip	36½	36⅝
Dillard Dept St	35½	35⅛
Disney (Walt)	95⅞	97½
Dominion Res	41⅝	42⅛
Donelley (RR)	35¼	36½
Dover Corp	34½	34⅞
Dow Chemical	98	98¼
Dow Jones	52½	53½
Dresser	39⅞	39⅞
Duke Power	55⅞	55⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	30⅞	30¼
Du Pont	58⅞	57⅞
Eastman Chem	57½	57⅞
Eastman Kodak	57⅛	57⅝
Eaton Corp	87¼	87¼
Edison Intl	26½	26½
Elect Data Sys	42⅝	42⅞
Emerson Elec	55⅝	56
Engelhard Corp	17⅝	17¼
Enron Corp	40	40¾
Entergy	29	28½
Ethyl Corp	8⅞	8⅞
Exxon	60½	60⅞
FMC Corp	65	64½
FPL Group	58⅞	59½
Federal Express	56⅝	56⅞
Fifth Third Banc	78¾	79¼
Fleet Finl Grp	73½	74
Fluor Corp	35⅞	36⅝
Ford Motor	46⅛	46⅝
Fort James	37¾	38⅝
Fortune Brands	36½	36⅞
Franklin Res	84⅞	86⅛
GTE Corp	50⅞	50⅝
Gannett	58	58⅞
Gap Inc Del	33⅞	34¼
Gateway 2000	32½	32½
Gen Dynamics	82⅛	82⅞
Gen Electric	71⅞	71⅞
Gen Mills	71½	71¼
Gen Motors	58⅝	59½
Gen Reinsurance	207⅞	208⅞
Gen Signal	40¼	40⅞
Genuine Parts	32⅝	33⅝
Georgia Pac	59⅞	60⅛
Gillette	97¼	97¾
Glaxo Wellc ADR	47⅞	47⅞
Goodrich (BF)	41¹¹⁄₁₆	41¹¹⁄₁₆
Goodyear Tire	61⅛	62⅞
Great Lakes	42¼	42½
Halliburton	46½	46⅛
Harcourt General	52⅞	53
Heinz (HJ)	49⅝	50¼
Hercules	48¼	48½
Hershey Foods	60⅞	60⅞
Hewlett Packard	59⅝	60½
Hilton Hotels	28⅛	27⅞
Home Depot	54⅞	55½
Homestake Mng	9⅛	9¼
Honeywell	66⅝	68⅝
Household Intl	120⅞	121⅛
Houston Inds	25½	26
Humana	18⅞	19
ITT Corp	81⅛	81¼
Ikon Office	26⅛	25¾
Illinois Tool	56¼	56½
Illinova	26⅞	26½
INCO	17½	17
Ingersoll Rand	38¼	39¼
Inland Steel	15¾	16⅝
Intel Corp	70¼	70⅛
IBM	99¼	98½
Intl Flav & Fr	49⅞	48⅝
Intl Paper	42⅞	42⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	65⅛	66⅛
Kellogg	48⅝	49½
Kerr-McGee	62½	61⅛
Kimberly-Clark	48	48⅛
Kmart	10⅞	11⅛
Knight-Ridder	50⅞	51¼
Lilly (Eli)	67¼	68½
Limited Inc	22⅞	23¼
Lincoln Nat	74⅞	74¹¹⁄₁₆
Litton	55⅝	55½
Liz Claiborne	40½	40⅞
Lockheed Martin	93⅞	92½
Louisiana Pac	18⅞	18⅝
MCI Comm	42½	42½
Manpower Inc	34¼	34½
Marriott Intl	68⅝	68⅛
Marsh & McLnn	70⅞	70⅞
Masco Corp	50¼	50¾
May Dept St	50⅞	50½
Maytag Corp	35⅞	35¼
McDonalds	45⅝	46½
McGraw Hill	70	70⅛
Mead Corp	27⅞	27½
Meditrust Corp	35¼	36⅛
Medtronic	49⅞	49⅛
Mellon Bk	58½	60⅛
Merck Inc	101⅛	104½
Mercury Fin	0⅞	0⅞
Merrill Lynch	67⅞	68⅛
Microsoft	118⅞	123⅛
Minnesota Mine	84¼	83¼
Mirage Resorts	21½	22⅛
Mobil Corp	70½	70¼
Monsanto	38¼	38¼
Morgan (JP)	110¼	111¼
Motorola Inc	55¼	55½
Mylan Labs	20⅞	20⅞
Natl Semi	25⅝	26⅝
Natl Service Ind	48⅛	49⅞
Navistar Int	23⅞	23½
NY Times A	64⅞	63⅛
Newmont Mng	29⅝	29⅝
Nike B	38½	39
NL Industries	12½	12½
Nordstrom	56½	54¼
Norfolk Sthrn	29¼	29⅞
Nthn State Pwr	58⅞	58⅛
Norwest Corp	39¼	35¼
Occidental Pet	28⅞	28½
Oracle	21⅛	21⅛
Oryx Energy Co	22⅝	22⅞
Owens Corning	33⅝	34¼
PPG Industries	56	56⅞
PMI Group	70½	72½
PNC Bank	54¼	55⅞
PP&L Res	23¾	23⅝
Paccar Inc	51½	51½
Pacificorp	26⅛	26⅞
Pac Enterprises	36¼	36⅞
PaineWebber	33¼	33⅝
Pall Corp	20⅞	20¼
Parker Hannifin	45⅛	45⅛
Peco Energy	24¼	24⅛
Penney (JC)	57⅛	57
Pennzoil	66⅞	66¹¹⁄₁₆
Pepsico	34⅛	34¼
Pfizer	70½	72⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	36¼	37⅛
Phelps Dodge	61⅛	60¾
Philip Morris	44⅞	44⅞
Phillips Pet	47½	46¼
Pitney Bowes	86⅛	88⅛
Polaroid	49¼	49¼
Procter & Gmbl	78⅛	77½
Providian	42⅞	43⅛
Pub Serv E & G	30⅞	30⅞
Quaker Oats	52¼	52⅞
Ralston Purina	90¼	91⅛
Raychem Corp	40¼	41½
Reebok Intl	28⅞	28⅞
Reliastar Fin	39⅞	39
Reynolds Metals	58½	58⅞
Rockwell Intl	50½	50⅞
Rohm & Haas	91⅞	91⅛
Royal Dutch	52⅞	52⅞
Rubbermaid	24¼	24⅛
SBC Comms	73⅞	74½
Safeco Corp	47¼	47¾
St Paul's Cos	81½	82⅞
Sara Lee Corp	55⅞	56⅛
Schering Plough	57⅞	57⅞
Schlumberger	73⅞	72⅞
Seagram	30¼	30⅞
Sears Roebuck	42⅞	41½
Shell Trans	42½	42¼
Sherwin Wlms	25⅞	25⅞
Silicon Graphics	12⅛	12⅛
Snap-On-Tools	43½	42⅝
Southern Co	24½	24¼
Southtrust	58½	59
Sprint Corp	55½	56¼
Stanley Works	44¼	43¼
Sun Company	41¼	40⅞
Sun Microsys	37½	37¼
Suntrust	68⅝	70
Supervalu	41⅛	41¼
Synovus Fin	31¼	32⅛
Sysco Corp	44½	46⅛
TRW Inc	52¾	53⅛
TIG Hldgs	31½	31½
Tandy Corp	35⅞	35⅞
Temple Inland	50⅛	50¼
Tenet Healthcare	31¼	31½
Tenneco	38¼	38⅞
Texaco	53⅝	53⅞
Texas Inst	44⅛	44¼
Texas Utilities	40¼	41¼
Textron	59½	59⅞
Thermo Elect	41½	41½
Time Warner	59⅞	60¼
Times-Mirror A	59⅞	59¼
Timken	33½	34½
Torchmark	38½	39¼
Toys R Us	28¹¹⁄₁₆	29⅝
Transamerica	104⅞	106¼
Travelers	51⅛	52⅞
Tribune	59¼	59¼
UST Inc	35½	35⅞
US Bancorp	107	107⅝
UAL	87⅞	88½
Unitrin	62½	62⅛
US Inds	28	28½
US West Comm	44¼	45¼
US West Media	27½	27½
USAirways Group	58¼	57½
USX Marathon	31¼	31
Unicom	29⅞	30
Unilever NV	58⅞	59⅞
Union Camp	51½	52
Union Carbide	42¼	42
Union Pacific	61⅞	61½
Unisys Corp	12	12
USF&G Corp	20⅞	21
United Tech	69	69⅞
Unocal Corp	37¼	38
VF Corp	43½	44⅛
Wal-Mart Stores	37⅞	37⅛
Warner-Lambert	122⅞	124⅞
Waste Mngmt	27	26⅞
Wells Fargo	326	329½
Weyerhaeuser	48⅞	48⅞
Whirlpool	52⅞	53⅞
Whitman	25⅝	25½
Winn Dixie	42	42¼
Witco Corp	39½	40
Woolworth	20¼	20½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	76⅝	77½
Xerox	68⅝	68⅞
Xilinx Inc	34½	34¼

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *28*

ABATON
(c) An enclosure attached to a temple of Asclepios. The Greek neuter participle meaning "not to be trodden on", *bainein* to walk. "Thereupon sleep fell upon him, and a serpent issuing from the abaton, healed his toe with his tongue, and when he had done this he glided back again into the abaton."

EWIGKEIT
(b) Eternity, infinity. The German word. Specifically in the jocular phrase *in(to) the ewigkeit* "into thin air". "We leapt together parachute-less into the Ewigkeit."

BOONGARY
(b) The tree-kangaroo of North Queensland, *Dendrolagus lumholtzii*. The native name, *bangaray* in the Port Jackson dialect. "Upon the whole, the boongary is the most beautiful mammal I have seen in Australia."

ECTROMELIA
(b) The congenital absence of a limb or limbs. From the Greek *ektrosis* miscarriage + *melos* a limb. "Ectromelia. Kosmak reports, with an illustration, a case showing entire absence of the upper extremities. There is not a dimple indicating where the arms ought to appear on the shoulder-girdle."

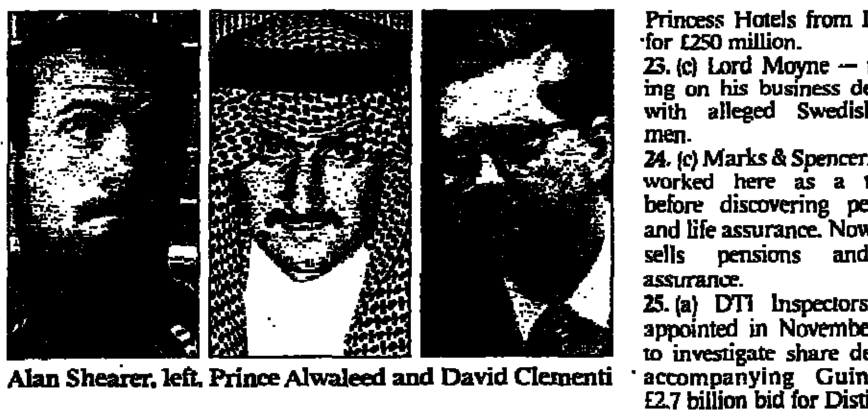
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rg5! fxg5 2 Qh8+ Rg8 3 Rf1+ Ke8 4 Qxg8 mate

Do you qualify as a City quiz whiz?

How clued up were you on City events in 1997? Now is the moment of truth. Below are the answers to the quiz that appeared in Tuesday's Business section.

1. Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays Bank.
2. Tim Waterstone, who considered a bid for WH Smith.
3. It was allegedly found among safety deposit boxes at NatWest's Princes Street branch.
4. Michael Grade, who became chairman of First Leisure in July.
5. Marco Pierre White.
6. Howard Hodgson.
7. Brian Staples.
8. *David Clementi.*
9. Goldman Sachs.
10. Michael Bloomberg.
11. Michael Heseltine.
12. Price Waterhouse with Coopers, KPMG with Ernst & Young.



Alan Shearer, left, Prince Alwaleed and David Clementi

13. The Financial Services Authority.
14. Alan Shearer at Newcastle United.
15. Phillipe Edmonds.
16. Frank Sytner of Sytner Group.
17. Tony O'Reilly, who retired as chief excecutive of HJ Heinz.
18. Sheffield Eagles
19. Millwall
20. The £1.2 billion bid for Co-operative Wholesale Society by Andrew Regan's Galileo.
21. Denis Cassidy, who is a director of Newcastle United and used to run Boddingtons.
22. Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, who was supposed to buy Princess Hotels from Lonrho for £250 million.
23. (c) Lord Moyne — reflecting on his business dealings with alleged Swedish con men.
24. (c) Marks & Spencer. Levitt worked here as a trainee before discovering pensions and life assurance. Now M&S sells pensions and life assurance.
25. (a) DTI Inspectors were appointed in November 1986 to investigate share dealings accompanying Guinness's £2.7 billion bid for Distillers.
26. (c) Abbas Gokal and Robert Feld were among defendants to help the Serious Fraud Office to an unbroken run (not counting the Elizabeth Forsyth acquittal, which relates to 1996).
27. (a) Diageo, based (questionably) on the Greek for world and the Latin for day.

Retailers could find magic of Christmas loses its lustre

There are signs the seasonal spending splurge can no longer be taken as read, says **Alasdair Murray**

Joseph Wan, top, says Harvey Nichols will have a bumper January sale; Michael Bennett of Oasis, where Christmas has been "lacklustre"; and a sign of the times at Laura Ashley

It is not just children who believe in the magic of Christmas. For the country's retailers the last two months of the year can make or break their financial fortunes. Around 30 per cent of total annual sales are made in the last quarter of the year. Even more importantly, December accounts for nearly 13 per cent of all retail sales — around 60 per cent more than in an average month.

This year the omens for a bumper Christmas looked good initially. Retail sales had soared since the beginning of the year, reaching a peak during the windfall-fuelled summer spending boom. Unemployment was still falling and in spite of the recent interest rate rises, consumer confidence and wealth remained at levels not seen for a decade. A clutch of retail surveys pointed to a seasonal shopping spree, with spending predicted to rise by a respectable 5 per cent to £24 billion — equivalent to £535 per person.

However, the evidence of this Christmas season has been more ambiguous, leaving retailers facing up to the fact that consumers have been reluctant to part with their hard-earned cash. A raft of poor trading statements, weak November retail sales data and anecdotal evidence pointed to a slow start to the festive season, leaving retail share prices under pressure as analysts rushed to downgrade their profit forecasts.

Michael Bennett, chairman of Oasis, the fashion retailer, described sales as "lacklustre", while Comet, the electrical goods retailer owned by Kingfisher, reported a disappointing increase in like-for-like sales during November.

Even at the top end of the market, retailers are finding it hard. Harvey Nichols reported that sales are only 3 per cent ahead of last year, while Joseph Wan, the company's chief executive, openly admitted that the "Absolutely Fabulous" store will be putting on a bumper January sale because it has ordered too much stock.

Some retailers, including the troubled Laura Ashley, were already discounting stock before Christmas in a desperate effort to kick-start sales. The Centre for Economics and Business Research estimates that retailers' over-optimism has resulted in a £3 billion mountain of unsold goods — around £1 billion more than usual.

Some analysts believe that signs of a weak Christmas — in the strongest year for sales for a decade — reflect a shift in consumer spending habits, perhaps even the gradual demise of the Christmas shopper. Philip Booler, managing director of Camus, the clothing import company, says: "The public have become accustomed to nearly permanent sales. People will be giving money as presents at Christmas and wait until the beginning of the sales to spend it."

Mr Booler believes that the impact will be devastating, especially in the clothing trade, and that if discounting persists "lots of companies will go bust this year".

However, the evidence of a distinct shift away from seasonal shopping is not conclusive. Clive Vaughan, a retail analyst at Verdict, the research group, argues that the level of discounting has actually declined over the past year. "If you look back to three of four years ago, half the companies had sales on throughout the year," he says. "But now a company such as Burton is managing to keep full prices for almost the whole year."

An analysis by Mintel, the retail consultancy, of retail sales data from the last five years actually shows that Christmas has become more important to most retailers, although there was a slight shift away from last-quarter buying in 1996.

However, the Mintel survey provides anecdotal evidence from retailers that increased consumer affluence this year has perhaps slightly reduced the need for large-scale shopping at Christmas. Consumers have been better able to respond immediately to their needs, rather than hoarding for a Christmas splurge.

The windfall payouts from building society flotations could have exaggerated this emerging trend, with consumers bringing forward spending previously tied to Christmas. Electrical retailers, which normally take more than one third of their annual sales in the last quarter, look especially vulnerable because they enjoyed bumper sales in the summer.

Mr Vaughan also believes there are some specific problems in this market, which may be holding back sales. Television sales appear to have slumped because the imminent introduction of digital television has left consumers confused as to when to upgrade their existing sets. The computer market is also struggling because of a fierce price war, which is expected to intensify in the new year when Intel cuts prices by up to 40 per cent.

Clothing and footwear sales, which are also tied heavily to the end of the year, were weak, with the retailers blaming the erratic weather. In contrast, food and drink sales — which are less Christmas-driven — enjoyed a strong seasonal run.

However, not all retailers are panicking. BhS said that its out-of-town stores have been busy. Marks & Spencer cautioned that early measures of Christmas sales are prone to give a misleading impression of business because consumers are leaving their shopping later and later.

Mr Vaughan supports this view, pointing to the vast expansion of opening hours in the last few years. Longer hours, including 24-hour supermarket openings and Sunday trading, have added 12 days of shopping time. With much of this extra time concentrated in the final week before Christmas — when many consumers are on holiday — there were many expecting the Christmas rush to come right at the death.

Mr Vaughan says: "With the introduction of Sunday trading, consumers have become more relaxed about leaving things to the last minute."

The Mintel analysis backs this theory, finding that about 40 per cent of consumers claim to start Christmas shopping only in December. Within these figures there is an inevitable bias towards a last-minute dash by male shoppers. About 50 per cent of men begin Christmas shopping only in December, while 20 per cent admit to starting in "late" December. Mr Vaughan maintained that this late rush will again have saved the retailers' Christmas, although the evidence of companies enjoying strong sales so far has been patchy.

However, given that expectations of a bumper Christmas had soared on the back of the summer retail boom, even a strong Christmas would not have satisfied the City. The round of January trading statements is likely to lead to a spate of profit downgrades, while overstocking should ensure that consumers enjoy a wide choice in the January sales. The Christmas shopper may not be dead yet but retailers can no longer afford to take the seasonal splurge for granted.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.64	2.46
Austria Sch	21.81	20.15
Belgium Fr	64.23	59.27
Canada $	2.523	2.335
Cyprus Cyp£	0.912	0.840
Denmark Kr	11.88	10.97
Finland Mkk	9.51	8.76
France Fr	10.37	9.59
Germany Dm	3.12	2.88
Greece Dr	493	454
Hong Kong $	13.78	12.56
Iceland	131	111
Ireland Pt	1.21	1.12
Israel Shk	6.29	5.64
Italy Lira	3081	2844
Japan Yen	231.23	213.70
Malta	0.684	0.625
Netherlds Gld	3.525	3.230
New Zealand $	3.01	2.77
Norway Kr	12.76	11.82
Portugal Esc	315.03	293.00
S Africa Rd	8.61	7.85
Spain Pta	261.79	243.00
Sweden Kr	13.77	12.67
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.33
Turkey Lira	345832	325954
USA $	1.775	1.632

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Wednesday.

TIMBER-
LAND WINTER SALE
STARTS TOMORROW.
CHOP. CHOP.

Timberland

72 NEW BOND STREET • 125 LONG ACRE, COVENT GARDEN • HEATHROW TERMINAL 2
Open Sat 9-7, Sun 12-6, Mon-Fri 10-6.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Strauss's sensual Salome

Salome
BBC2, 2.50pm

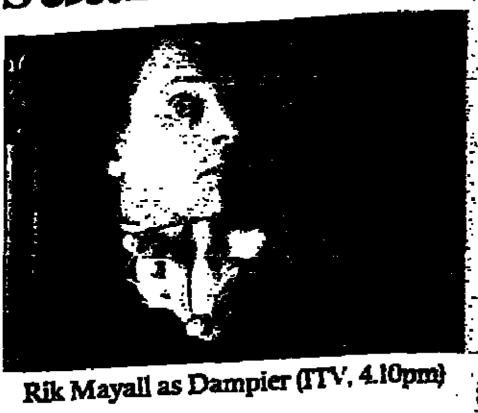
You can understand why Oscar Wilde's story, brought to searingly sensual life in Richard Strauss's opera had the shocked audience roaring its disapproval when it was first seen in 1905. The story itself — of superbitch Salome, stepdaughter of King Herod (who fancies her desperately) — was originally banned. The beautiful Salome agreed to perform *The Dance of the Seven Veils* for Herod only if he would grant her any wish. At first he refuses when she says that all she wants is the head of the man she lusts after and is rejected by — John the Baptist — on a silver platter. This Covent Garden production — all black and silver and doom-laden ("I can hear the wings of the Angel of Death in the palace," sings Herod) is a wrenching experience and the central performance of Catherine Malfitano will leave you drained...

The Canterville Ghost
ITV, 4.10pm

Oscar Wilde again, with a story, adapted by Olivia Hetreed, and the cast to die for. Indeed the eponymous ghost, Sir Simon de Canterville, already has. But as played by Ian Richardson he's possibly the liveliest member of the cast — all hugely enjoying themselves as they camp it up — with splendid special effects — at Knebworth House. Celia Imrie is the new mistress of Canterville Chase, Edna Dore, the formidable housekeeper, Donald Sinden an over-the-top (naturally) dinner guest, Pauline Quirke a fraudulent medium and Rik Mayall superb as an hysterical exorcist is the Very Reverend Augustus Dampier. But this is really a children's story so it falls to the young heroine (Sarah-Jane Potts) to bring peace at last to the restless spirit.

The Vicar of Dibley
BBC1, 9.00pm

A seasonal kick-off for the latest four-part series and, as played so winningly by Dawn French, a very welcome vicar this is. If the Rev Geraldine could get together with that anxious, dishy vicar from *EastEnders* their church would overflow! But I digress... Geraldine is getting seriously worried about the non-start love affair between her two shyest parishioners — Alice (Emma Chambers) and Hugo (James Fleet). They seem to have been stuck in the "gazing soppily at each other" phase of their relationship for nearly a decade now, but as Geraldine manoeuvres them towards the mistletoe and their first kiss she herself gets a marriage proposal she would rather be without... Watch, too, for news of "Radio Dibley" — and a revue by the parishioners at the village hall over which the curtain should perhaps be drawn.



Rik Mayall as Dampier (ITV, 4.10pm)

The Hunt
BBC2, 9.00pm

"The Empire, the Church and the Countryside — these are what I hold most dear" intones the fresh faced new Master of the Ludlow Hunt, Rupert Inglesant. And he has given unprecedented flea-on-a-hound access to director Nick Coppen's cameras for this compelling, even beautiful, study of the hunting life in rural England. Farmers, huntsmen and women and local politicians get generous time to extol the glories of hunting in the face of the current opposition: pursuing and killing foxes ("notorious pests") with horse and hound is a time honoured sport which helps keeps what Rupert calls Mother Nature in control of the countryside. Fortunately we do not see a fox actually being torn apart — rather the majority go to earth where they are trapped by terriers specially trained to keep them at bay until they can be shot. So that's all right. **Elizabeth Cowley**

RADIO CHOICE

Bon Appétit
Radio 4, 9.45am

The start of a four-part series by Kevin Connolly which aims to answer the question: how come the French are so much better at food than we are? Boxing Day is as good a time as any to start, given that many of us will be asking why we put up with the same fare every year. Connolly starts with an examination of the more exotic French tastes, although the word "exotic" is used advisedly: what it means is why do the French eat horses, *amphibians' legs, snails, pigs' ears and ox cheeks*? But the real oddity is not so much what the French eat but the fact that they are only 20-odd miles away from us and yet their culinary tastes might as well be Martian. History, as Connolly shows us, has the answer, of course.

Second to None: The Proxy Parent
Radio 4, 8.50pm

Another series of the programme that delves into the lives of people who have chosen to be substitutes, though happily there are no footballers present. Tonight the programme follows Vicky, whose job it is to take charge of other people's families for a few days or a few weeks at a time. While the programme was being made Vicky was looking after three children, a dog and two cage birds and this included some fairly awesome responsibilities, such as taking Nick, the seven-year-old, to his first Holy Communion and Phillip, the five-year-old, to his first school sports day. There are moments when this kind of job can be quite draining on the emotions, for Vicky and indeed for the listener. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

9.00am The Best Mayo Radio Show In the World — Ever **12.00** Take Three **1.00pm** Radio 1 Roadshow Summer Tour **2.00** Clive Warren **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential '97 **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show **2.00am** One in the Jungle **4.00** Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** *Alan Freeman* **2.00pm** *Christmas Lifestyles* **3.00** The Goon Show (r) **3.30** Richard Allinson **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **9.15** Dracula **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** And Is It True? **11.00** Bob Harris **1.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Brief Lives '97 (r) **7.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Sport on Five, with Ian Payne. Includes commentary and reports on the days football and coverage of the **2.20** Pertemps King George VI Chase at Kempton Park **7.00pm** The Late Six-O-Six **9.00** Extra Time (r) **10.00** Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Jay Rayner **11.00** News Extra **11.30** Tales of the Turf (r) **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Richard Dallyn **5.00** Spotlight 97

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Nick Abbott **10.00** Robin Banks **2.00pm** Nicky Horne **6.00** (FM) Paul Coyte (MW) Calmin Jones **10.00** Richard Porter **2.00am** Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

6.30am Martyn Blunt **10.00** Phil Holden **1.30pm** Gambaccini Remembers **2.00** The Law with the Raw **3.00** The Race Debate **4.00** Ronnie Barbour **7.30** Nick Abbot **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00am** Andy Wint

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Meridian Feature **7.00** News **7.15** From the Weeklies **7.30** Foul Play **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Wisdom of the World **8.30** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Review **9.15** The Works **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Northern Lights **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** People and Politics **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Review **12.15** A Jolly Good Show **12.45** Short Story **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Sportsworld **3.00** News **3.05** Sportsworld **4.00** News **4.15** Sportsworld **4.30** *(648 only)* News in German **5.00** News **5.01** Weekend **5.30** From Our Own Correspondent **6.00** *Newsdesk* **6.30** Science in Action **7.00** News **7.01** Westway **7.30** Options **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Review **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Play of the Week: Nativity to Judgement **11.30** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Letter from America **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Wisdom of the World **1.45** Sports Roundup **2.00** Newsday **2.30** Music Review **3.00** News **3.05** World Business Review **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** From Our Own Correspondent **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Global Business **5.00** *Newsday* **5.30** *Jazzamatazz*

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann **9.00** Nick Bailey **12.00** Luciano Pavarotti in Mostar. Concert performance by children from the war-torn Bosnian town, where, through the world-famous tenor's fundraising efforts, he finally realised his dream of building a music centre **2.00pm** Beauty and the Beast. Walt Disney's new hit musical, featuring the London cast of Derek Griffiths, Barry James, Mary Millar, Norman Rossington and Burke Moses. Narrator Chris de Burgh **3.30** Margaret Howard **6.00** Jussi and Friends: A Life of Jussi Bjorling. Hugh Macpherson traces the career of the great tenor. With contributions from opera stars including Victoria de Los Angeles, Elisabeth Soderstrom and Birgit Nilsson **8.00** Evening Concert. Berlioz' *L'Enfance du Christ*. Stephen Cleobury conducts the Choir of King's College, Cambridge and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Jussi and Friends: A Life of Jussi Bjorling (r) **4.00** Sally Peterson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes, including Mozart, arr Wendt (Overture The Marriage of Figaro); Haydn (Symphony No 95 in C minor)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Schubert (Klavierstuck in E flat); Strauss (Ein Heldenleben)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Geraint Lewis. Warlock (Benedicamus Domino); Bax (Phantasy in D minor); Gurney (Down by the Salley Gardens); Prokofiev (Romeo and Juliet Suite No 3); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A); John Peterson (Rituals in Transfigured Time); Tippett (Suite for the Birthday of Prince Charles)
12.00 Composers of the Week: British Light Music
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. From Studio 7, Manchester. Introduced by Rodney Slatford. Martin Roscoe and Kathryn Stott, piano duet. Mozart (Andante and Variations); Schubert (Fantasy in F minor)
2.00 The BBC Archive: Listeners' Requests. Paul Guinery introduces a Christmas programme of requests. Includes Paganini (Caprice No 5 in A); Elgar (Symphony No 1 in A flat, 1st *mvt*); Haydn (Piano Trio in G, Gypsy Rondo); Tippett (Sosostris's aria, The Midsummer Marriage); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat)
3.55 Nursery Notions: Ding-Dong Bell (5/5)
4.00 Music Restored: Christmas Cometh Early. The Sixteen, under Harry Christophers, perform a selection of festive music (r)
4.45 Turns of the Century. *A new series celebrating* great performers, beginning with Russell Davies looking at Al Read
5.00 In Repertory. The *Times* opera critic Rodney Milnes talks to Nicolai Gedda about the lead role in Massenet's *Werther* (r)
6.00 Schubert Songbook, with Gordon Stewart (r)
6.15 In Country Churches. Adrian Jack visits St Michael's in Framlingham, Suffolk
7.00 Performance on 3. A concert given on Sunday at the Albert Hall, London. With Jane Eagle, Deborah Voigt, Heidi Grant Murphy, Michelle de Young and Birgitta Svenden, sopranos, Johan Botha, tenor, Eike Wilm Schulte, baritone, Rene Pape, bass, New London Children's Choir, Oratory School Choir, University College School Choir, London Philharmonic Choir, Brighton Festival Chorus, Guildford Choral Society, London Choral Society, Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra under James Levine. Mahler (Symphony No 8, Symphony of a Thousand)
8.45 Haydn and Bartok. *David Golub*, piano. Haydn (Sonata in C); Bartok (Ten Easy Pieces, 1908); Haydn (Sonata in A flat)
9.45 Postscript: Christmas Day, by Paul Durcan (5/5)
10.00 Hear and Now. Andrew Sparling introduces a concert tribute to Alexander Goehr. Peter Serkin, piano, London Sinfonietta under Oliver Knussen. Includes Schoenberg (Three Pieces for Chamber Orchestra, 1910); Goehr (Idees Fixes, premiere); Stefan Wolpe (Piece for Piano and 16 instruments, UK premiere); Goehr (Little Symphony)
11.30 *Composer of the Week: Prokofiev* (r)
12.30am Kenton's Innovations (3/4) (r)
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** On Your Farm **6.55** Weather **7.00** Today **8.45** The Nation's Favourite Poems **8.58** Weather
9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's *castaway* is Sir Harry Secombe (r)
9.45 Bon Appetit. See Choice (1/4)
10.00 (FM) News; Writer's France. Peter Lennon explores the lure of the Cote d'Azur (1/3)
10.00 (LW) News; an Act of Worship
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Cold Turkey with Dan and Nick. Dan Freedman and Nick Romero host a half-hour of comedy
11.00 Foul Play. P.D. James and H.R.F. Keating try to solve a seasonal crime (r)
11.30 *The Pickwick Papers,* by Charles Dickens, dramatised by Martyn Read (3/6)
12.00 News; Trumpton Riots Again. Jenny Hanley talks to Ed Stewart, Michael Aspel, Don Maclean, Bernie Clifton, Pip Hinton and Jan Hunt about *Crackerjack* (2/2)
12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with James Cox
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator, by *Roald Dahl*, dramatised by Malcolm McKee. With Matthew Kelly (r)
3.00 News; An Artist In Sound: Playground. Piers Plowright looks at English life (1/2) (r)
3.30 An Artist in Sound: Mr B A documentary following a teacher through a typical day at school (2/2) (r)
4.00 News 4.05 Calling to Swans. The true story of the struggle for survival of a family of swans
4.30 Batteries Not Included (r)
4.45 Short Story: The Remarkable Rocket, by Oscar *Wilde, read by John Moffatt*
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55 Weather**
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 Singular Women: Bea, by Steward Permutt. June Brown plays the long-suffering companion of a minor comic whose demise puts her happily into the limelight (1/4) (r)
6.30 Richard Barton — General Practitioner! (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Year. Chris Serle celebrates the best of the year's *broadcasting* from the BBC
8.05 Natural Consequences. A group of Christmas revellers speculate on the future of the planet
8.50 Second to None: The Proxy Parent. Presented by Sera Parker. See Choice (1/4)
9.15 Letter from America, with Alistair Cooke
9.30 The Pickwick Papers (3/6) (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Special Debate: Family
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Playback, by Raymond Chandler, abridged by Robert Dodds (5/10) (r)
11.00 Week Ending. A *Christmas panto special*
11.25 Tea Junction. Presented by Patrick Hannan
11.45 Singular Women: Frances, by Steward Permutt. Celia Imrie plays a shy teacher who achieves a notoriety she would rather be without (2/4) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Christmastime at the End of the Road, by Tom Boddett (5/5)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** *FM 88.0-90.2.* **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; *LW 198; MW 720.* **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الإهمال

'Follow star' was the call, but nothing shone

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Round my house the day started — or rather paused for recharging — with **Teletubbies** (BBC1). Not sure why — the baby is indifferent to it, calls it adultile. But we like it and it gets us out of her way for 25 minutes, so *off to Teletubby land it was.*

It didn't take long to realise that the baby had a point. I mean, how many under-twos would have appreciated Dipsy's fine impersonation of Michael Jackson breakdancing? Or the full symbolism of Tinky Winky opening his present (and after the controversial recasting there can be no doubt that Tinky Winky is a he) to find he'd been given a floating, shiny star? "Whassat?" he gurgled, with frightening authenticity.

Anyway, once he had worked it out and Noo-Noo, the voracious vacuum cleaner, had realised you could not eat it, they were off. "Follow star," commanded Tinky Winky, which is how this particular star came to be followed not by three wise men but four slightly dim and overweight Teletubbies. It eventually finished on top of the Christmas tree that has suddenly sprung up in the surreal pastures. Two to one those giant rabbits will have eaten it by new year.

"Time for Tubby-coffee or Tubby-Champers?" I inquired, after we'd said our goodbyes. It was an important decision. Go one way and there might still be time for the prune and pâté stuffing that Jennifer Paterson had prepared on **Two Fat Ladies** (BBC2, Christmas Eve). Then I remembered the preparation the prunes needed — soaked in Earl Grey tea, simmered in goose giblet stock then rinsed in vermouth. I don't know about life being too *short*, but Christmas certainly was. We settled for Clarissa Dickson Wright's Swedish red cabbage which we prepared... in an English red cabbage sort of way.

Gary would later show the same gastronomic flexibility in **Men Behaving Badly** (BBC1) when he discovered that he had neither the prunes nor the Armagnac that Delia Smith specified, so he went for sun-dried tomatoes and tequila. *Good choice, mate... until he* hit the Bailey's. For that way lies ruin, as Aunt Sal had already discovered in **EastEnders** (BBC1). She started with sherry, then switched to gin and tonic, then moved on to red wine, Bacardi, pina colada... She was last seen staggering towards the bar of the Queen Vic in search of a Malibu and pineapple. As she said, oh so tactfully, to Phil: "Must be terrible not to have a drink at Christmas."

After the ups (*best moment*, Paris) and downs (Ireland) of the year, the soap is finishing the year in cracking form. Roy at death's door, Frank back on the Pat prowl and best of all Terry and Irene's inevitable but still scary Yuletide coupling. For a while yesterday it looked as though Peggy might even get away with her rash Christmas Eve promise that "nothing was going *to spoil our Christmas*". But then Phil cut up rough about babysitting, Grant and the newly empowered Tiffany were at each other's throats and Kath and the vicar were at each other's lips, having a distinctly secular snog. Will Peggy catch them at it? Well, I'm not missing it tonight.

Would that such compelling fare had been more evenly spread, but alas it was not. There was something particularly depressing about BBC1 scheduling *Men Behaving Badly* and *They Think It's All Over* one after the other. Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve, you wouldn't have blinked twice — but Christmas night? *Men Behaving Badly*, by itself, they'd have got away with because, despite an opening flurry of bleeped four-words, it managed to hit all sorts of raw nerves on the difference between Christmas fantasy and Christmas reality. The fact that Debs (Leslie Ash, sporting a new *and seriously grown-up haircut*) briefly chucked Tony (Neil Morrissey) meant that there was even a bit of running storyline to keep up with. *And when did that last happen in a Christmas special?*

But following it with **They Think It's All Over**, especially a Christmas special recorded so long ago that Lee Hurst was still in David Gower's team, that was depressing. The programme's lack of charm has been an integral part of its laddish appeal, but *the sniping* is now so vicious and the humour so puerile that it is difficult to disagree with those who think it is high time it was knocked on the head.

It used to be funny, it isn't any more. They think it's all over. It should be — allowing Gower and Gary Lineker to recover a bit of dignity and enabling the talented Nick Hancock to move on to something new.

Conspicuous by its absence from all channels and much missed was the big chunk of television drama that Christmas night is made for — a Morse would have done, an Agatha Christie even better. Curiously, ITV rather frittered its chance away on Tuesday night with **The Pale Horse**. It may have been a star or two short of automatic top billing and it didn't have a Christmas theme, but it managed to combine a crime *thriller with the occult in a* fashionable, watchable, even halfway plausible style.

Purists may have balked at the updating of Christie's novel, but given the astonishing popularity of *Heartbeat*, it's a miracle that all ITV drama is not set in the early 1960s. This one was — allowing Colin Buchanan and Jayne Ashbourne to rush around the Cotswolds in a convertible Triumph Vitesse (think Agatha Christie meets *Blow Up* — only without the sex), while some rather over-confident witches slipped into something black and shiny and prepared as only Christie witches can. "Are you comfy, Sybil?" "Yes thank you dear." Lovely.

BBC1

6.30 am The Greedysaurus Gang (8564607) **6.35** William's Wish Wellingtons (8563978) **6.40** Bump's Christmas Story (2749201) **6.50** Spot's Magical Christmas (6021065) **7.20** Poddington Peas (2900171) **7.25** Toy Symphony (2966152) **7.50** White Christmas (6745317) **8.15** Eek the Cat (9626539) **8.40** Sweet Valley High (8906607) **9.00** North and South: On Tour (1769626) **9.25** Casper Classics (6580220) **9.40** Teletubbies (9833591)

10.10 Superman III (1983) Christopher Reeve reprises the role of the Man of Steel. Directed by Richard Lester (T) (70602607)

12.10 pm Paul McCartney's Standing Stone: the Documentary How he created his first symphonic work, with help from fellow composers including *John Harle* and *Richard Rodney Bennett* (7398571)

1.00 News (T) regional news and weather (50052688)

1.10 Neighbours (T) (73112775)

1.30 Disneytime (T) (4912355)

2.10 Hook (1991) Robin Williams and Dustin Hoffman star as sworn enemies in Steven Spielberg's update of the classic children's story (T) (47978572)

4.25 The Pink Panther (r) (3815881)

4.50 Final Score (T) (6346317)

5.10 News (T) (5733715)

5.25 Neighbours *(r) (T) (6822442)*

5.50 Big Break (T) (544404)

6.20 Beethoven's 2nd (1993) Comedy with Charles Grodin and Bonnie Hunt, about a loveable St Bernard dog. Directed by Rod Daniel (1476442)

7.40 EastEnders Tiffany pushes Grant over the edge and Frank unwittingly becomes Pat's knight in shining armour (T) (312713)

8.10 Blankety Blank Lily Savage kicks off a new series (T) (516862)

8.40 News (T) and weather (780510)

8.58 Perfect Day for Christmas The chart-topping video (r) (419046)

9.00 The Vicar of Dibley Geraldine takes it upon herself to push Alice and Hugo's relationship forward (T) (933133)

9.40 Before They Were Famous II Angus Deayton with television and film stars' early screen appearances (T) (203930)

10.15 True Lies (1994) Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as a computer salesman who leads a double life as a superspy embroiled in international terrorism. Also with Jamie Lee Curtis. Directed by James Cameron (T) (36537317)

12.35 am Unplugged: Oasis An acoustic set recorded last year at London's Festival Hall (r) (T) (4989878)

1.20 Carry On Girls (1973) Sid James persuades his local council to hold a beauty contest, unaware that a women's action group is plotting to sabotage the event. Directed by Gerald Thomas (1774008)

2.40 Weather (3046824)

2.45 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

7.15 am The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (r) (2968510)

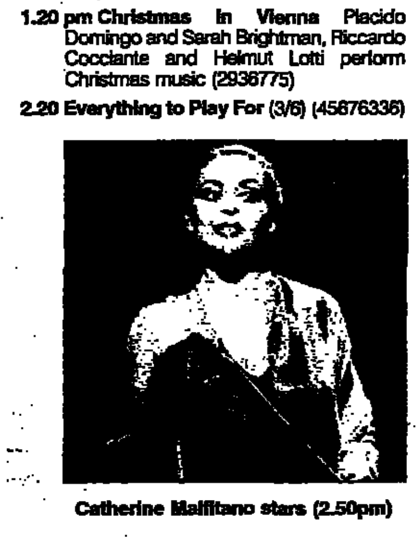
7.40 Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933, b/w) Joan Blondell, Ruby Keeler and Aline MacMahon star as Broadway chorus girls. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (18214688)

9.15 Oliver Twist (1948, b/w) See Film Choice. David Lean directs Alec Guinness as Fagin in this adaptation of the classic Charles Dickens novel. Also starring Robert Newton, John Howard Davies, Kay Walsh and Anthony Newley (76554065)

11.05 FILM: Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967) Musical farce, with Julie Andrews, as a Kansas girl who leaves her country roots behind for the bright lights of New York where she hopes to find success, sophistication, and a wealthy husband. *Also starring Mary Tyler Moore and Carol* Channing. Directed by George Roy Hill (T) (47151030)

1.20 pm Christmas in Vienna Placido Domingo and Sarah Brightman, Riccardo Cocciante and Helmut Lotti perform Christmas music (2936775)

2.20 Everything to Play For (3/6) (45676336)



Catherine Malfitano stars (2.50pm)

2.50 Salome Luc Bondy's Royal Opera production of Richard Strauss's opera, with Catherine Malfitano and Bryn Terfel (97531152)

4.45 Far Country (1955) James Stewart sets out to strike it rich in the Alaskan goldfields with an old pal - but finds his best efforts scuppered by swindlers, rogues and romantic problems. Directed by Anthony Mann (T) (14058249)

6.20 Land of the Tiger The monsoon rainforests of Assam, Southern India's Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. Last in series (T) (304510)

7.10 A Christmas Dickens: Mrs Lirriper's Lodgings Last in series (T) (939775)

7.45 The Royal Ballet George Balanchine's *Symphony in C* and William Forsythe's *Steptext* (725065)

9.00 Under the Sun: The Hunt Documentary promising a balanced view of *fox hunting* (7929404)

10.10 Steptoe and Son Christmas Special Harold plans to take a Christmas holiday abroad (r) (T) (838775)

10.55 Stella Street with John Sessions and Phil Cornwell (T) (338133)

11.05 The Browning Version (1994) with Albert Finney, Matthew Modine, Ben Silverstone and Greta Scacchi. A lonely school master realises that both his marriage *and his career have been* failures. Directed by Mike Figgis (611423)

12.35 am The Amazing Colossal Man (1957, b/w) Sci-fi adventure, with Glenn Langan and Cathy Downs, directed by Bert I. Gordon (2292640)

1.55 Weather (7880447)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2254084)

9.25 Treasure Seekers (4/4) (r) (T) (1757881)

9.55 Tiny Toon Adventures (1248591)

10.20 Percy the Park Keeper (7598688)

10.50 Freaky Friday (1995) Shelley Long and Gaby Hoffman star in this comedy about a mother and daughter who magically change places for a day. Directed by Melanie Mayron (T) (56604341)

12.30pm Countdown to Tomorrow The making of the 18th James Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies* (4305997)

1.20 News (T) and weather (33435930)

1.30 Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (1993) Animated adventure with the caped crusader (T) (9951268)

2.40 The Sword in the Stone (1963) Disney animated feature-length film of the legend of King Arthur (1187249)

4.10 The Canterville Ghost Ian Richardson stars in this adaptation of Oscar Wilde's comic tale about an American family who move into an historic house, where they encounter the resident ghost. (T) (9741602)

5.40 News (T) and weather (194648)

5.50 Emmerdale (T) (539572)

Test pilot Mel Gibson (6.20pm)

6.20 Forever Young (1992) Romantic fantasy with Mel Gibson and Jamie Lee Curtis. In *1939, a test-pilot, believing his girlfriend* to be dead, agrees to be cryogenically frozen for one year. However, something goes wrong and he is left undiscovered, until he is accidentally thawed by a couple of boys 50 years later. Directed by Steve Miner (T) (70108688)

8.20 Coronation Street Kevin has some bad news for Natalie (T) (531171)

8.50 News (T) and weather (221442)

9.00 Edna Kisses It Better Megastar Dame Edna Everage tends the ills of the famous. Her celebrity patients include Elle MacPherson, Melinda Messenger, Cliff Richard, Rolf Harris, Lord Archer and David Seaman (T) (1317)

10.00 Dances with Wolves (1990) Kevin Costner's Oscar-winning epic western. After becoming a Civil War hero, a Union officer is posted to an abandoned South Dakotan fort. As time goes by, a tribe of Sioux Indians assimilate the white soldier into their lives. Starring and directed by Kevin Costner (T) (3590681)

1.20am 10 (1979) Dudley Moore stars as a middle-aged Hollywood songwriter who becomes obsessed with the woman of his dreams. Directed by Blake Edwards (52050379)

3.30 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (r) (57465669)

3.55 Sound Bites (90176089)

4.05 Comedy Central (2016404)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (78089)

5.30 Talespin (6083553)

5.55 ITN News (6086640)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

1.20am Box Office America (4113263)

1.50 Baywatch Late (406311)

3.35 Film: Please Turn Over (8700553)

5.05 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (3455027)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: No variations

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

5.00am Look and Cook (78089)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: No variations

S4C

Starts: 6.00 Dumb and Dumber (4594201)

6.10 Ovide (4386959)

6.35 Madeline (6002930)

7.00 The Babysitters' Club (58423)

7.30 Two Stupid Dogs (37930)

8.00 The Big Breakfast (17688)

10.00 Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8733423)

10.01 Happy Days (10775)

10.30 The Morning Line (9689572)

11.15 Ant and Dec's Geordie Christmas (1658355)

12.00 Smudge (83323)

12.30pm Slot Meithrin (46611220)

12.45 Pingu (46616775)

1.00 Racing from Kempton Park and Leopardstown (63588249)

3.20 Film: Ebbie (45071648)

5.00 5 Pump (6803317)

5.25 Gogs (8783030)

5.40 Crefyddau'r Byd Wedi Eu Hanimeiddio (713607)

6.00 Newyddion (173591)

6.05 Heno (581210)

7.00 Licyris Olsorts (3775)

8.00 Penblwydd Hapus (4930)

8.30 Cefn Gwlad: Aelwyd Bro Gwerfyl (58249)

9.30 Newyddion (834591)

9.45 Garej Nadolig (198201)

10.00 Brookside (76688)

11.30 Jo Brand Burns Rubber (87355)

12.30am Film: Safe (56477737)

2.40 Film: Love at First Bite (714486)

RTE1

Starts: 8.00 Film: A Woman of Paris (48173404)

9.20 Film: Tarzan and His Mate (46997404)

10.55 Musicals, Great Musicals (12359442)

12.05pm The Golden Girls (31392648)

12.30 Coronation Street (1252220)

1.05 Home and Away Special (13803423)

1.40 Film: Oliver! (47860084)

4.20 Film: One Christmas (46066572)

6.01 Six-One (6907125)

6.15-6.30 Cartoon Time (5452030)

6.30 Coronation Street (7357978)

6.55 Film: Jurassic Park (20301442)

9.15 News and Weather *(2517978)*

9.35 Upwardly Mobile (3881305)

10.05 Film: Four Weddings and a Funeral (47078355)

12.20am Film: Trading Places (28537535)

2.25 Film: Coma (2775176)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Dumb and Dumber (r) (6017510) **6.10** Ovide (r) (4386959) **6.35** Madeline (r) (6002930) **7.00** The Babysitters' Club (r) (9018862) **7.35** Two Stupid Dogs (r) (6323626) **8.00** The Big Breakfast (17688) **10.00** Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8733423) **10.01** Happy Days (r) (10775) **10.30** The Morning Line (9689572)

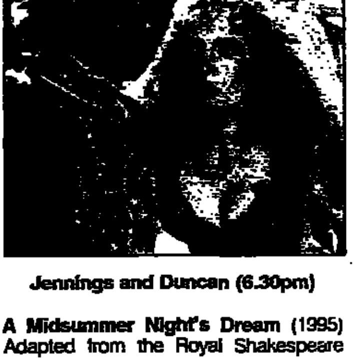
11.15 Jack the Giant Killer (1961) with Kerwin Matthews and Judi Meredith. Children's fantasy adventure directed by Nathan Jura (23501930)

1.00pm Racing from Kempton Park and Leopardstown Brough Scott introduces the **1.10; 1.45; 2.20** (King George VI Chase) and **2.55** races (45728152)

3.10 The Land That Time Forgot (1975) with Doug McClure, John McEnery and Susan Penhaligon. Sci-fi adventure about survivors from a First World War ship who discover a legendary land. Directed by Kevin Connor (95061249)

5.00 Bewitched It is Christmas and as usual Samantha's nose gets her into trouble (T) (2598274)

5.30 The Light Lunch Cardigan Christmas Special Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins are joined by Vic Reeves, Bob Mortimer and Ulrika Jonsson from *Shooting Stars*. Vic and Bob attempt to make chocolate logs while Ulrika prepares traditional Swedish fare (T) (39978)



Jennings and Duncan (6.30pm)

6.30 A Midsummer Night's Dream (1995) Adapted from the Royal Shakespeare stage production of the romantic comedy, starring Alex Jennings and Lindsay Duncan. Directed by Adrian Noble (T) (25862)

8.30 Brookside A feature-length episode of the Merseyside soap. Jimmy begins to accept that he can't prevent Lindsey from seeing Barry. Jacqui worries that Ron will find out about her surrogacy deal. Max gives Julia a driving lesson. But will he live to tell the tale? (T) (48626)

10.00 Nell (1994) with Liam Neeson, Jodie Foster and Natasha Richardson. A doctor discovers a fully-grown wild child who has had no human contact except her mother. Directed by Michael Apted (60933317)

12.05am Le Confessional (1994) with Lothaire Bluteau and Kristin Scott Thomas. A man returns home to Quebec from China on the death of his father and learns hidden truths about his family's past. Directed by Robert Lepage. In French with English subtitles (600263)

2.00 I Confess (1953, b/w) with Montgomery Clift and Anne Baxter. A priest cannot *break the sanctity of the confessional* after hearing a murderer confess. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (T) (171718)

3.45 Strange Cargo (1940, b/w) with Clark Gable and Joan Crawford. Eight convicts escape from Devil's Island. Directed by Frank Borzage (T) (705640)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am Dappledown Farm (r) (7787775) **6.30** The Wind in the Willows (63307620) **6.50** Mr Men and Little Miss (30278713) **7.00** Wimzie's House (4859733) **7.30** Alvin and the Chipmunks (9609030) **8.00** Havakazoo (8453797) **8.30** Adventures of the Bush Patrol (9803238)

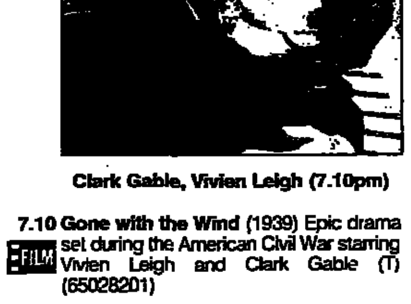
9.00 The Princess and the Goblin Animation featuring the voices of Peggy Mount, Victor Spinetti, Claire Bloom, Joss Ackland, Sally Ann Marsh, Mollie Sugden, Roy Kinnear, Rik Mayall and Peter Murray (8198292)

10.30 Stickin' Around (9908882) **11.00** Eco Warriors Special (4299862) **11.30** Wishbone (4290591) **12.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (5203274) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (1252220) **1.00** 5 News Update (88594510)

1.05 Football Special Highlights from some of the year's top European and international action. Featuring World Cup qualifiers between England v Poland; Scotland v Latvia and Ireland v Belgium. Uefa cup: Arsenal and Aston Villa. Cup Winners' cup: Chelsea v Slovan Bratislava. Champions' League Newcastle United v Croatia Zagreb and the pre-season tournament — the Umbro Cup (63709152)

6.00 100 Per Cent (4415997)

6.30 Family Affairs Annie and Elsa face up to the truth concerning Jack and Maria's affair; Tim and Holly share a passionate kiss (T) (6830539)



Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh (7.10pm)

7.10 Gone with the Wind (1939) Epic drama set during the American Civil War starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable (T) (65028201)

11.10 Lexx: The Dark Zone Stories Zev must find a supply of proto-blood to prevent Zev from dying. Last in series (2603607)

1.00am The Happy Hooker (1975) Offbeat comedy with Lynn Redgrave as a New York madam (5785992)

2.50 Smoke Signal (1955) with Dana Andrews, Piper Laurie and Rex Reason. The cavalry arrives at its new fort to find it under attack by Indians. Directed by Jerry Hopper (62737599)

4.20 The Plough and the Stars (1936, b/w) with Barbara Stanwyck and Preston Foster. Charting the Irish Rising through the eyes of a man selected by the rebels to fight in Dublin. Directed by John Ford (26607331)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7744060)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (631171) **9.00** Hotel (10048) **10.00** Another World (99794) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (79930) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (72626) **1.00pm** Geraldo (58046) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (77084) **3.00** Jenny Jones (58572) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (77607) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (2355) **6.00** Married with Children (2065) **6.30** Married with Children (3317) **7.00** The Simpsons (3084) **7.30** Real TV (2201) **8.00** Highlander: The Series (97959) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (56743) **10.00** Walker Texas Ranger (51210) **11.00** Star Trek: Voyager (90423) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (25911) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (25621) **2.00** Long Play (3879643)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
Each film costs £2.99 per viewing

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
Jingle All the Way (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
Chain Reaction (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
The First Wives' Club (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
The Crow: City of Angels (1996)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.10am Desert Bloom (1986) (73588133) **8.00 Annie, a Royal Adventure! (1995)** (55501249) **9.40 Cut Throat Island (1995)** (58897628) **11.40 While You Were Sleeping (1995)** (17892442) **1.25pm Annie, a Royal Adventure! (1995)** (2867510) **2.55 Apollo 13 (1995)** (28589625) **5.15 While You Were Sleeping (1995)** (14107713) **7.00 Cut Throat Island (1995)** (96607) **9.00 Sense and Sensibility (1995)** (34310601) **11.50 Eike (1995)** (979607) **1.35am Forgotten One (1989)** (673756) **3.15 Castle Freak (1994)** (69782517)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am The Invisible Man Returns (1940) (4019887) **7.25 An American Tail (1986)** (7948423) **8.50 A Troll in Central Park (1994)** (8808591) **10.10 Batman Forever (1995)** (67895210) **12.10pm The War (1994)** (774862) **2.10 Free Willy 2 (1995)** (470794) **3.50 Fluke (1995)** (696065) **5.30 Batman Forever (1995)** (47423) **8.00 Crimson Tide (1995)** (17713) **10.00 Sudden Death (1995)** (874268) **11.50 Darkman III: Die, Darkman, Die (1995)** (507323) **1.20am Blessed Assurance (1996)** (671263) **2.55 Cold Dog Soup (1990)** (1615553) **4.25 The Old Curiosity Shop (1984)** (248602)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm ET: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) (9454539) **6.00 Bigfoot and the Hendersons (1987)** (4896046) **8.00 Uncle Buck (1989)** (4891591) **10.00 The Pope of Greenwich Village (1984)** (8500862) **12.00 The Principal (1987)** (6739485) **1.50am Thank God It's Friday (1978)** (24985195) **3.20 Uncle Buck (1989)** (5576824) **4.55** Close

TNT

8.00pm WCW (56385978) **9.00 Kelly's Heroes (1970)** (54278336) **11.30 Never So Few (1959)** (81220317) **1.45am Kelly's Heroes (1970)** (14198244) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Futbol Mundial (49713) **7.30** Wrestling (68688) **8.30** Knock-Outs of '97 (49249) **9.00** Racing News (23201) **9.30** Aerobics (67133) **10.00** How the Ryder Cup Was Won (972930) **1.00pm** Knock-Outs of '97 (48084) **1.30** White Water World Championships (54572) **2.30** NHL: Powerweek (80152) **3.30** Knock-Outs of '97 (4607) **4.00** Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur — Live (3497423) **7.30** Sports Centre (3355) **8.00** NBA: Boston Celtic v Charlotte Hornets (38859) **10.00** Football (29107) **12.00** Sports Centre (89466) **12.30am** Wrestling (55756) **2.30** Football (85379) **4.30** Rebel Sports (42076) **6.30** Sports Centre (80195)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (8902626) **7.30** Iron Women: Devondale (9381133) **8.00** Racing News (5124688) **8.30** Tennis: Cliff Richard's Celebrity Tournament (9190882) **9.30** Trans World Sport (2043775) **10.30** Futbol Mundial (5136423) **11.00** Formula One Powerboats (8878802) **11.30** Reading v West Bromwich Albion — Live (3921978) **2.30pm** Futbol Mundial (6309084) **3.00** Extreme Sport (2716442) **3.30** Ice Wars (9225336) **5.30** World Sport Special (6370572) **6.00** Cricket: Australia v South Africa (2678404) **10.00** Knock-Outs of '97 (5128404) **10.30** High 5 (5137152) **11.00** Trans World Sport (9368046) **12.00** Knock-Outs of '97 (6352602) **12.30am** Football League Review (2740701) **2.30** Sky Sports Centre (5671485) **3.00** Fishing: Marlin Cup (6185843) **5.00** White Water World Championships (6949185)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Cricket: Australia v South Africa (38173862) **4.00** World of Sailing (28375423) **4.30** Powerboat and Jetski World (28371607) **5.00** NHL: Ice Hockey Powerweek (28134602) **6.00** Extreme Sport (28352572) **6.30** High 5 (28376152) **7.00** Trans World Sport (56378688) **8.00** Football League Review (56381152) **10.00** Wrestling: Raw (36398249) **12.00** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Showjumping (96084) **8.30** Cliff Diving (34317) **9.00** Tour de France (64210) **11.00** World Cup Legends (38338) **12.00** British Touring Car Championship Season Review (75152) **1.00pm** World's Strongest Women (51572) **2.00** Pool (32046) **4.00** International Motorsport Magazine (17249) **5.00** Martial Arts (2997) **6.00** Stock Car Racing (71336) **7.00** World Cup Special (37591) **8.00** Offroad Magazine (53539) **9.00** Boxing: Georges Foreman v Shannon Briggs (33775) **10.00** Sumo (36862) **11.00** Snooker (12775) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am The Sullivans (4039607) **7.35** Neighbours (4815572) **8.00** Crossroads (2980881) **8.25** EastEnders (6537046) **9.00** The Bill (4517607) **9.35 FILM: Great Expectations (1946)** (27195133) **11.35** 'Allo 'Allo! (1852626) **12.35pm** Till Death Us Do Part (6189677) **1.35** In Sickness and in Health (4941629) **2.15** Liver Birds (7428997) **3.10** Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (3818171) **4.10** Pop Profile (95842539) **4.15** Save the Children (38335404) **5.20** Two Ronnies (4648881) **6.20** In Sickness and in Health (5189779) **7.00** Dad's Army (6926249) **7.40** A Word with Alf (9288125) **7.50** Rising Damp (8534423) **8.20** Keeping Up Appearances (7191715) **9.00** Only Fools and Horses (53546591) **10.50** Blackadder II (5284152) **11.30** The Bill (9417626) **12.05am FILM: The Eagle Has Landed (1976)** (70751553) **2.40** Shopping (72646114)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (8739862) **7.00** Hawaii Five-O (6788442) **8.00** The Saint (7666794) **10.00** Dempsey and Makepeace (6161336) **11.00** Hart to Hart (6141572) **12.00** Fortune Hunter (2076084) **1.00pm** Mission Impossible (2052404) **2.00** The Professionals (7660510) **3.00** Dempsey and Makepeace Special (1697084) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (3658065) **6.00** Fortune Hunter (2072268) **7.00** Hart to Hart (2589189) **8.00** Mission Impossible (6294797) **9.00** The Professionals (6389341) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (7434030) **11.00** Close

Kate Winslet in *Sense and Sensibility* (Sky Screen 1, 9.00pm)

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm FILM: Oliver Twist (1982) (22161404) **7.00** Desmond's (15089733) **7.30** Birds of a Feather Special (28387268) **8.00** The Beiderbecke Tapes (54798152) **9.30** Billy Joel Live (54284355) **12.00** St Elsewhere (96883060) **1.00am** Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (17723195) **1.30** Pull the Other One (32195379) **2.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street **7.00** The Little Mermaid **7.30** Quack Pack **8.00** Brand Spanking New Doug **9.00** Nightmare Ned **9.30** Gargoyles **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Smart Guy **11.00** Boy Meets World **11.30** Brotherly Love **12.00** The Wonder Years **12.30pm** Home Improvement **1.00 FILM: The Big Green** **2.35** Winnie the Pooh **2.45 FILM: Bluetoes, the Christmas Elf** **3.15** Timon and Pumbaa **3.30** Recess **3.45** Gargoyles **4.15** Recess **4.30** Brand Spanking New Doug **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Student Bodies **6.00** Boy Meets World **6.30** Home Improvement **7.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **8.00 FILM: Heavyweights** **9.35** Dinosaurs **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Detly and His Friends **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Ace Ventura **9.30** Casper **10.00** The Tick **10.30** Incredible Hulk **11.00** Bureau of Alien Detectors **11.30** Phantom 2040 **12.00** Power Rangers Zeo **12.30pm** Life with Louie **1.00** The Mouse and the Monster **1.30** C Bear and Jamal **2.00** Eek! Stravaganza **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** Casper **5.00** The Tick **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** Sweet Valley High **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Sprou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Batman **9.00** Earthworm Jim **9.30** Romuald the Reindeer **9.45** Romuald the Reindeer **10.00** Oscar's Orchestra **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Sprou **12.30pm** Sonic **1.00** Batman **1.30** AJ's Time Travellers **2.00** Iznogoud **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Batman

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** to **9.00pm**, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Angry Beavers **1.00** The Secret World of Alex Mack **1.30** Clarissa Explains it All **2.00** The Adventures of Pete and Pete **2.30** Kablam! **3.00** Baily Kipper's POV **3.30** Capitol Critters **4.00** Jumanji **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** Madison **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** No Naked Flames **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** Blast **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Move on Up **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Karaoke Challenge **9.15** Winner Takes All **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Karaoke Challenge **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Very Famous Paul Ross Show **1.30** Moonlighting **2.30 FILM: The Sign of Four** **4.30** Alien's First Christmas **6.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (4585959) **9.00** Tour of Duty (4598423) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (6742065) **10.30** Italian Stripping Housewives (8605779) **10.45 FILM: Phoenix the Warrior (1988)** (80390882) **12.35am** Leslie Nielson's Unbalanced World (1874263) **12.45** Beverly Hills Bordello (5153263) **1.15** Red Shoe Diaries (5150176) **1.45** Italian Stripping Housewives (14279737) **2.00** Beverly Hills Bordello (9434981) **2.30 FILM: Rambo III (1988)** (1822466) **4.20** Leslie Nielson's Unbalanced World (85523080) **4.30** Family Dog (7536355) **5.00** Starsky and Hutch (4102737)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (6572) **7.30** Roseanne (1997) **8.00** Ellen (5220) **8.30** Cybill (4355) **9.00** Cheers (19607) **9.30** Taxi (89355) **10.00** Monty Python's Flying Circus (49336) **11.00** Paramount Presents (14152) **11.30** Ellen (98591) **12.00** Roseanne (87008) **12.30am** Nightstand (31331) **1.00** Soap (13195) **1.30** Taxi (36534) **2.00** Paramount Presents (58331) **2.30** Grace Under Fire (77466) **3.00** Cybill (93331) **3.30** The Kenny Everett Show (68718) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm FILM: Flash Gordon (1980) (52795930) **10.15 FILM: Night of the Creeps (1985)** (1338442) **11.45** The Making of Starship Troopers (2530268) **12.00 FILM: *Night of the Living Dead* (1968)** (9281896) **2.00am** Dark Shadows (7124466) **2.30** New Alfred Hitchcock (7103973) **3.00** Friday the 13th (6902805) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am-4.00pm This Old House

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (3585201) **4.30** Flightline (3514713) **5.00** Ancient Warriors (8732171) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (3505065) **6.00** Untamed Amazonia (9056423) **7.00** Mysterious Universe (8729607) **7.30** Disaster (3515442) **8.00** Crocodile Dundee (4581133) **8.00** Crocodile Dundee (1552171) **9.30** Crocodile Dundee (9068268) **10.00** Crocodile Dundee (6755539) **10.30** Crocodile Dundee (6731959) **11.00** Crocodile Dundee (8740201) **12.00** Sunday Drivers (3606089) **1.00am** Disaster (8196094) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (9573331) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Explorer (8474713) **8.00** Island Life: Bali — *Masterpiece of the Gods* (8450133) **9.00** Island of the Iguana (8470097) **10.00** Island of the Giant Bears (8473084) **11.00** Jewels of the Caribbean Sea (5797404) **12.00** Island Life: Caymans (2325282) **1.00am** Close

TRAVEL

12.00pm Arctic Wonderland **1.00** A-z Med **1.30** Amazing Races **2.00** Cities of the World **2.30** Gatherings and Celebrations **3.00** Portrait of Ireland **3.30** Railway Adventures Across Europe **4.00** Around Britain **4.30** Greg's World **5.00** Wet and Wild **5.30** Reel World **6.00** The Flavours of France **6.30** On the Horizon **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** No Truckin' Holiday **8.30** Sports Safaris **9.00** Scandinavian Summers **10.00** Gatherings and Celebrations **10.30** On Tour **11.00** Arctic Wonderland **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Christmas at War (9396022) **5.00** The History of the RAF (5148268) **7.00** Biography: Michael Caine — Breaking the Mould (2289959) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** Rustie's Real Cooks **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** High Days and Other Days **2.00** For Better, for Worse **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** French Lunch **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** Ideal Home Cooks **4.30** Planet Nosh **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Lesley's Christmas Countdown **9.30** The Gordon Elliott Show **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.55** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **12.25pm** Jimmy's **1.00** Cheap Chic **1.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.05** Hart to Hart **3.00** Could It Be a Miracle? **4.10** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Cheap Chic **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic, and Miracles **8.00** Jerry Springer **9.00 FILM: *Kate's Secret*** **11.00** The Sex Zone **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Aap Ki Adalat **8.00** ZEE Business News **8.15** ZEE and Music **8.30** Ashaa **9.00** Dachi **10.00** Mujhe Talaq Do **10.30** Chalo Cinema **11.00** Food Festival: *Zaike ka Safar* **11.30** Ras Barse **12.00** Andaz **12.30pm** Darbar **1.00** Hindi **FILM: Padosan** **4.00** Hey Ha Ho **4.30** Antakshari **5.00** ZEE Zone **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** Lehren **7.00** ZEE Top 10 **7.30** Mast Mast Hai Zindagi **8.00** News and Euronews **8.30** Parampara **9.00** Hit Star Season, Boxing Day Special **FILM: Ram Jaane** **12.00** Close **4.00am** Hindi **FILM: Naukar Biwi Ka**

MTV

The 24 hour music channel

VH-1

The video hits channel

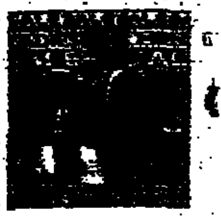
CITY QUIZ WHIZ 37

How did you fare in our brain-teaser? We have all the answers

BUSINESS

FESTIVE MAGIC 38

Is the seasonal spending splurge losing its lustre?



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26 1997

Hamanaka offers Sumitomo $800,000 redress

By Jason Nisse

YASUO HAMANAKA, the rogue trader whose dealings cost Sumitomo Corporation $2.6 billion (£1.55 billion), has offered to pay his former employer $800,000 that he had kept in a Swiss bank account.

The offer came in a Toyko court yesterday, as Mr Hamanaka was questioned by prosecutors before being sentenced in the new year. Mr Hamanaka, who was nicknamed "Mr Five Per Cent" because he once controlled that proportion of the world's coppers market, has pleaded guilty to charges of fraud and forgery in connection with the losses incurred by Sumitomo.

Mr Hamanaka had earlier admitted that Saburo Shimizu, his former boss and business partner, had given him over $1.5 million which he had deposited in an account at Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich in the early 1990s.

In October the Swiss authorities told Sumitomo, which has been suing Mr Hamanaka, that it could confiscate anything in that account, but the group has yet to take any action. The existence of this secret account emerged only last June, a year after the Sumitomo scandal came to a head.

In court, Mr Hamanaka said only $800,000 was left in the account. Asked by prosecutors if he intended to pay any compensation to Sumitomo, he said: "Yes. The amount that I can compensate is limited to the outstanding balance of my account at UBS in Switzerland."

Mr Hamanaka also detailed how he managed to get into the situation where he hid billions of dollars of unauthorised trading on the copper markets using forged documentation. He said that after racking up dealing losses he increased the level of unauthorised trading during 1994 and 1995 in the hope of recovering the deficit. The full extent of losses emerged only in June 1996.

Mr Hamanaka is due in court again on February 2.

Yasuo Hamanaka, accompanied by prosecutors, shortly after his arrest in October 1996. He is due to appear in court again on February 2

Eurotunnel adds to run of failures over targets

By Fraser Nelson

EUROTUNNEL has failed to meet its traffic targets for the third year running, falling at least 10 per cent short of the goals it set for 1997 only seven months ago.

The company, which operates the Channel Tunnel and Le Shuttle service, will confirm next month that a hectic Christmas rush has failed to compensate for a lacklustre performance through the year.

The disappointing figures will intensify fears that the company is ill-placed to meet its plan to break into profit and to start rewarding its shareholders with dividend payments by 2006.

London & Continental Railways (LCR), which runs the Eurostar service from London Waterloo, has also missed the 1997 target for passenger numbers. It is set to finish the year some 700,000 short of the 6.7 million journeys that Eurotunnel had expected.

By the end of November, Eurostar's running 1997 total was 5.51 million passengers, against its target of 6.6 million. After last week's fracas, where hundreds of travellers were told to cancel trips to make way for 3,000 servicemen and women returning from Germany, its December total is unlikely to exceed 500,000.

As part of Eurotunnel's plans to mount a £4.4 billion debt-for-equity swap, it predicted that it would take 2.51 million cars through the tunnel in 1997. In the year to November, the running total was 2.04 million. Even if Le Shuttle was fully booked in December, the total would fall far short of the "downside case" in its prospectus.

The tourist coach service is set to prove the most embarrassing failure. Eurotunnel predicted that it would carry 80,000 coaches this year but by the end of November had only managed 56,500.

The 1997 figures, to be announced in the second week of January, will undermine confidence in Eurotunnel's 1998 projections, which promise a 30 per cent jump in cars using Le Shuttle.

The City has been sceptical of Eurotunnel's forecasts. One transport analyst said: "This leaves you with very little faith in the company's ability to forecast. Whoever compiled these forecasts would never get a job in the City."

Although Eurotunnel has failed to live up to its traffic forecasts for the past three years, its followers had expected the company to have improved. As *The Times* reported on Christmas Eve, London & Continental has already fallen behind its construction timetable for the proposed high-speed link between the tunnel and London.

It had promised to find contractors for £500 million of work as part of the £1.4 billion of public money it has been given to mastermind the link. Coupled with the poor traffic figures, the delay will undermine its chances of raising £5.4 billion in debt and equity through a flotation next year.

However dismal the traffic figures, Eurotunnel's revenue will be protected by a minimum payment scheme agreed by the rail users. This will protect the company's top line until 2006, delivering a minimum £560 million of sales this year and £636 million next year. But this will be absorbed by interest payments on its £8.6 billion of debt, which is expected to lead to a £316 million pre-tax loss this year.

Christian Cambier, the dissident French investment manager who criticised Eurotunnel's restructuring plan, has been recruited to the board after he agreed to the debt-for-equity swap.

Eurotunnel's shares closed at 60p before Christmas, near their low of 57p and a fraction of their 580p high.

IMF agrees emergency $10bn deal with Korea

By Jason Nissé

THE International Monetary Fund rode to the rescue of South Korea over Christmas by agreeing to an emergency $10 billion (£6 billion) package to stabilise the economy.

The payment — an advance on the $60 billion bail out of the South Korean economy agreed earlier this month with the IMF — will come in two stages, with $2 billion being paid almost immediately and another $8 billion in the new year. This latest package comes on top of a $3 billion stabilisation loan, agreed by the World Bank on Tuesday.

Thirteen leading nations are putting up money, with the UK contributing $400 million and the US $1.7 billion. Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, said it was "very highly likely" the money would be repaid by South Korea in the not too distant future.

The IMF deal came in exchange for a wide-ranging reform package agreed by Kim Dae Jung, the President-elect, which included the opening up of the country's financial markets to foreign banks, a bail out for leading domestic banks, as well as labour market reforms. The package was greeted with relief in Seoul as Mr Kim had expressed worries about commercial banks refusing to roll over debt repayments coming due from South Korea.

The financial crisis in South Korea has seen the won collapse to nearly half its value against the US dollar during December. However, it strengthened on Christmas Eve and dealers are hoping for further stability.

There was also optimism in Tokyo, where reforms announced by the Ministry of Finance covering the way commercial banks account for their investments in Japanese stocks brought a surge in the Nikkei index yesterday.

The ministry's proposals allow banks and insurance companies to revalue their holdings of securities without having to adjust their earnings to reflect the changes. Previously any fall in the prices below the book values recorded by the banks would bring a loss, and this prompted banks to support share prices artificially. The Nikkei rose 2.51 per cent, to 15,300.1, with the banking sectors strong in spite of downgradings of two leading Japanese banks by Standard & Poors, the credit agency, and the placing of four more on credit watch.

However, brokers were still saying that the market could fall as banks start to implement the changes.

Leading article, page 17

Harrods and Boots to be sued

By Jason Nissé

HARRODS and Boots are both to be sued for allegedly copying designs from small firms to make Christmas novelties. The two cases, which are unrelated, are part of a campaign to try to stop infringement of copyright.

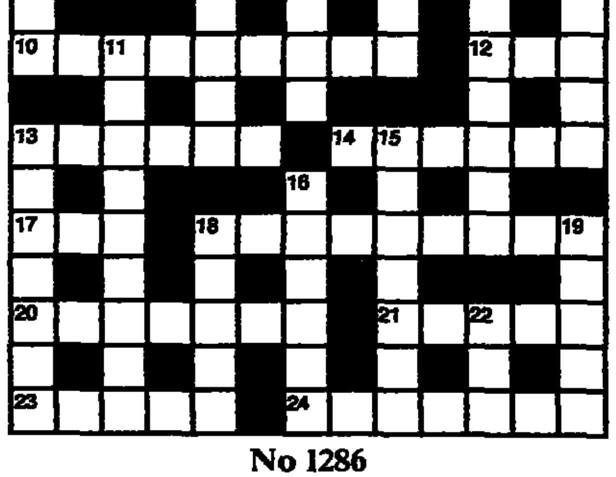
Saint Nicolas, a small group based in Fulham, southwest London, is to take action against Harrods, the Knightsbridge store owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, over Christmas decorations featuring Lifeguards, Scots Guards and red telephone boxes. It has been selling these to Harrods since 1989 but received no orders this year.

Then Nicola Barry, Saint Nicolas's founder, discovered similar items for sale in Harrods. The store says these are similar to those on sale around the UK and there has been no copyright infringement.

Boots is to be sued by Bliss over gift items which Bliss says are strikingly similar to those it supplied for many years — largely recipe books and utensil holders. This contract was terminated.

Boots says that the articles are completely different.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1286

ACROSS
1 Part of bird: turn (oar) (7)
5 Arms and legs (5)
8 Soviet camp system (5)
9 Warship: pleasure boat (7)
10 Today, Christmas was (9)
12 Meadow (3)
13 To wallow: a jumble (6)
14 An aggressive cock (6)
17 A sheep; computer storage (3)
18 Toupee (9)
20 A worm: *Dan, Neil* (*anag.*) (7)
21 Weapon: plunder (5)
23 Weighty (5)
24 Had a try (7)

DOWN
1 Such pudding *we 2 like* (*carol*) (5)
2 Everyone (3)
3 Practice of cleanliness (7)
4 Slowly go away, down (6)
5 Poor, mean: infested (5)
6 White-berried parasite (9)
7 Ironic scorn (7)
11 Sp. city, province; Wellington victory, 1812 (9)
13 Belligerent braves on it (7)
15 Hopes to attain (7)
16 Centre (6)
18 Red-berried tree: girl's name (5)
19 Make corrections to (5)
22 Insect: run away (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1285

ACROSS: 1 Night 4 Copious 8 Christmas 9 Tea 10 Exit 11 Mutineer 13 Cohort 14 Placed 17 Sympathy 19 Hard 22 IOU 23 Unconcern 24 Theseus 25 House

DOWN: 1 Nacre 2 Garnish 3 Task 4 Campus 5 Possible 6 Outré 7 Sparred 12 Creature 13 Casuist 15 Chateau 16 Shucks 18 Mouse 20 Dunce 21 Inch

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!

The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7 £2.99), The Times Crosswords (Book 20 Cryptic £2.99). The Times Jumbo Crosswords Book 3 is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
The Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order simply call 0990 134 459 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/P.O., please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2YX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

Granada attacked over payoff for contract cuts

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

GRANADA, the media, hotel and restaurant group, has been criticised by Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy, for paying its directors compensation for reducing their notice period from three years to two.

The payments take the total remuneration package for Gerry Robinson, Granada's Labour-supporting chairman, to nearly £1 million. The directors have been given the equivalent of two months' salary for the changes to their service contracts. The fact that five directors will get a total of £370,000 is revealed in Granada's 1997 annual report.

Pirc said the "unusual" payments went against the spirit of the Greenbury committee report on executive pay, which called for a reduction in notice period to avoid the large payoffs some executives have received.

Robinson: nearing £1m

"Greenbury did not say that there needed to be compensation for reductions in contract periods. If every company gave compensation for cutting notice periods then it would defeat the object of doing so in the first place, which is to cut corporate costs," Pirc said.

Mr Robinson will receive £138,334 on top of a total remuneration package of £857,000. Last year he was paid £728,000. Charles Allen, group chief executive, received a one-off payment of £110,000 in addition to his remuneration of £672,000. This compared with the 1996 total of £531,000. Stephanie Monk, human resources director, Graham Parrott, commercial director, and Henry Staunton, finance director, received a total of £126,167 for the change to their service contracts.

Greenbury suggests notice periods of 12 months or less.

Granada's annual report argues that in the media and service industries longer service contracts have enabled the company "to attract and retain executives of the highest quality".

Granada also said the payments were not unique.

Barnes & Noble switch fuels talk of Waterstone's bid

Bookstore launch shelved

BARNES & NOBLE, the US book retailer, has cancelled plans for a UK roll-out of American-style browse-and-return book stores, igniting renewed speculation that it could buy Waterstone's bookstore chain (Oliver August writes from New York).

WH Smith, which owns Waterstone's, was recently said to have been negotiating with EMI, the music group, over the proposed spin-off of the chain, which has 10 per cent of the UK book market.

The New York-based Barnes & Noble, which calls itself "the world's largest bookstore", has recalled its "beach-head team" from Britain. The 15-strong team had been scouring the UK for store sites and was supposed to lead an assault on British high streets in the spring. One rumoured explanation for the withdrawal is that the team had experienced difficulties finding sufficiently large store sites on UK high streets.

Barnes & Noble's superstores have won a huge following with their liberal browsing policy. Customers are invited to spend hours reading books and magazines in the in-house cafeteria. The management is unusually lenient with customers who buy and return books — even after reading them from cover-to-cover.

The UK withdrawal is also said to have been influenced by the growing importance of Internet book sales. Barnes & Noble offers more than one million titles online and has a substantial UK Internet customer base.

12 MILLION INVESTORS TRUST FIDELITY

LET'S TALK TURKEY.

PEPS WITHOUT THE GOBBLEDEGOOK.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM FIDELITY

Fidelity investors have plenty of reason for comfort and joy.

There's the security of investing with the world's largest fund manager. (With over £390 billion under management there's no one bigger than we are.)

Then there's the rewards of our "bottom up" stockpicking approach to enjoy. You see, we research markets and companies more thoroughly than any of our competitors. Our analysts make more than 46,000 company contacts every year all around the world. (Even Santa would be impressed by that number of calls!)

It's a philosophy that has seen us win numerous awards, and bring rewards for our investors.

Call us now or speak to your IFA about our range of plain-speaking, hard working, low cost PEPs.

Have a merry Christmas. And, of course, a very prosperous New Year.

0800 41 41 33

Call free 9am-6pm, 7 days. www.fidelity.co.uk

Fidelity Investments

JOIN THE WORLD'S No1

Resources and assets are as at 30/9/97 and include resources of FMR Corp, a US company and its affiliates. Tax credits on equity dividends will be reclaimable within a PEP until April 1999 when the new Individual Savings Accounts are to be launched. PEPs will cease to exist in October 1999. The value of tax savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP or ISA will depend upon individual circumstances and all tax rules may change in the future. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice. Issued by Fidelity Investments Limited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority.